N.Y. State Ag. S

THE VALLEY FARMER.

Devoted to the Interests of the Cultivators of the Soil in the Mississippi Valley.

VOL 2. ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH, 1850. NO. 3.

THE VALLEY FARMER

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E. K. WOODWARD & E. ABBOTT,
Publishers and Proprietors.

EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.

TERMS:

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All letters in relation to the business of the Valley Farmer should be addressed to "E. K. WOODWARD, 91 Chesnut street, St. Louis, Mo."

ADVERTISING.—The outside pages of the Valley Farmer are appropriated to advertisements, which will be inserted at the following rates:—One square of 12 lines, first insertion $1, subsequent insertions, 50 cents each. Cards of six lines or less inserted for $4 a year.

Culture of Flax

In the February number of the Valley Farmer, we published an advertisement of Mr. HENRY T. BLOW, an extensive manufacturer of linseed and castor oils and white lead, in this city, for the purchase of an unlimited quantity of flax seed, deliverable the ensuing fall and winter, and engaging to pay $1 25 per bushel, or more, if the market price should exceed that amount.

We regard the culture of Flax as a very important matter to the western farmer. The vast and increasing demand for oil, and the gradual but certain and permanent increase in the demand for the fibre, give every assurance that there is no danger that the market will be glutted, or that prices will sink so low as to cease to pay a handsome profit to the producer.

To convey something of an idea of the increasing demand for flax seed and oil, in this city, we give the following table, showing the amounts received each year, for the last six years:

Year.	*Bushels Flax Seed.*	*Barrels Linseed Oil.*
1844	7,471	140
1845	6,017	695
1846	9,961	826
1847	12,583	485
1848	32,460	1,609
1849	26,500	1,936

It is presumed that it will require at least an increase of one fourth upon the supply of last year to meet the demand of the ensuing year, while the stock on hand is very light. Why should not the farmers of the Mississippi Valley raise large quantities of flax seed for exportation, instead of sending thousands of dollars annually to Ohio and other States east of us for a supply for their own use? That it is a profitable and certain crop we believe all who have had any experience in it will testify—much more so, at present rates, if we consider the value of the seed only, than wheat, corn, or tobacco, and no matter how large a quantity may be raised, we feel warranted in saying it will find a ready market in this city.

We have spoken of this crop only as its seed is valuable, not taking at all into consideration the value of the fibre. This, too, is becoming an important article of commerce, and ere long will be in great demand for paper makers and manufacturers. A late foreign paper states that by completely robbing the fibre of its gum, we get immediately a fine downy material like raw cotton, only somewhat stronger. The strength of the flax is rather diminished by this process, but still the fibre is superior to cotton, and it may be passed through all the present cotton machinery in the subsequent processes. This, adds the journal, cannot fail to be highly interesting at this moment, when we are threatened with a scarce, and consequently dear and inferior, supply of cotton; and since much flax stalk is thrown away both at home and in India, the plant being cultivated for the seed, it follows we have here, a much less expensive raw material than cotton.

The editor of the Maine Farmer says that it is probable that the wages of labor may be much cheaper in Ireland than in this country, and that, we are inclined to believe, is all the advantage they can have over us in the linen business. The imperfect experiments that were tried in Maine last year were more successful than was anticipated; and it is expected that during the coming season, earlier and better directed efforts will be made to test the powers of the soil and climate in regard to flax raising.

Valley Farmer Correspondence.

LETTER I.

Opening a farm on the Prairie—Cheap Fence.

Fulton Precinct, Whitesides Co., Ill., Feb. 17, 1850.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

I find it no small job to make a farm on the prairie, although we cannot complain of our success thus far. Our fence is the heaviest matter we have to attend to, but one that cannot be neglected. We have thirty acres of heavy timber some six miles off, but it has not done us much good this winter, the roads have been so bad.

We had very good crops last season. Somewhat more than we should have got from a timbered farm in the same time, notwithstanding the disadvantages we labor under for want of wood and fencing. I say give me a prairie farm to one in the woods. It is very troublesome hiring help hereabouts, as every man that is of any account makes himself a farm, and any one that does not do it is not worth "shucks."

Speaking about fence I will tell you how we make fence. It is, we think, a good method where the timber is scarce, or has to be hauled a long distance, or in some parts of this State, where it takes the trunks of two and a half trees to make a rail cut (I mean the timber on the barrens.) We cut the timber five feet long, and split it as near to one and a half inches square as practicable. One end is sharpened, and the other is hewed or shaved to go through a one and a half inch auger hole. A strip of board, one inch thick, four inches wide, and twelve feet long, is prepared, by boreing it once in eight inches. A post is wanted to every length, sawed square on top. The posts are set at the right distance apart, the stakes driven on a line, and the upper end inserted through the board, and the board nailed to the the top of the post, and the work is done. Or the boards may be lapped, and a pin put through both into a hole in the top of the post. If the board should be five inches wide and a two inch auger be used, the stakes will need but little preparation to go through the holes.

A fence like the above costs but little besides labor. For 80 rods it takes 440 feet lumber, 110 posts; five and a half feet long, and about 1800 stakes, four and a half or five feet long. If five feet, they can be driven down after the ends rot off. The work can be mostly done under a shed or out house in wintry or rainy weather, and the fence is as good as a seven rail and staked Virginia fence. If team work is of any account, and timber has to be hauled five or six miles, one can see that the saving in that item is great; if timber is scarce, it is another item; and last but not least, it is easier to get and split a log five feet long than one ten feet long.

A. M. A.

LETTER II.

The Valley Farmer—St. Louis—the Great West.

Cerasco, Fond Du Lac co., Wis., Feb. 18, 1850.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Dear Sir:—I have received the Jan. No. of the "Valley Farmer" Volume 2d, and observed the notice to have it returned by such as might not desire to *continue* their subscription or become *new* subscribers. Now, Mr. Abbott, you will allow me to say that I have been highly pleased with the "Valley Farmer" during the past year, and am confident it has fully met the highest expectations of its many ardent friends and well-wishers. I hailed its *advent* with joy, and rejoice to see that it has entered upon another year of existence with bright prospects and felicitons hopes. May they more than be realized. It has now assumed the form I desired to see it appear in at first, as it is more convenient for binding and perusal. This, with its enlargement, are *additional* attractions to the many others it already possessed; and will doubtless win for it golden opinions as well as *golden expressions* of its appreciated worth. St. Louis has been long regarded by me as the *best*, because the most *natural locale* for an agricultural paper in the whole west. It occupies a central position in the most fertile and stupendous valley of the world, with unsurpassed facilities for certain, constant, and rapid communication with the remotest portions. As for *rivals*, St. Louis has none to fear in the west, any more than New York has in the east. Its geographical position denes competition, and unerringly marks it as *the* City of the Mississippi Valley. All that is necessary to make the "Valley Farmer" *the* agricultural paper of the unparalled scope of country it is designed to illuminate and elevate touching the most important interest of the most important country on the globe, is, that it keeps pace with its unrivaled position of publication, and the daily multiplying necessities of its thousands and tens of thousands of *ought to be supporters*; all of whom will be supporters in a short time if the Farmer is made what I trust it will be. You have had a *host* of misfortunes to struggle against during the past year; enough to have crushed less sanguine, hopeful, and perservering minds. Judging the *future* by the *past* no man ought to *despair*, but indulge the cheering thonght that the dark hour is past touching the possibility of sustaining an agricultural paper at St. Louis; and look confidently forward to the no distant day when said city shall be truly able to boast an agricultural paper having but few equals and *no superiors* throughout our broad Union. Arouse the dormant energies of the great army of farmers in the west, for whom bountiful Nature has spread the most prolific domain our earth affords; fanned it with gentle, perfumes, and salubrious breezes; and watered it with broad rivers, and thousands of bright, happy, sparkling, crystal, music-making streams! What a glorious mission, Mr. Editor! What a sublime field of operations! What a magnificent theatre for the great play of life! What a stupendous stage whereon to act a conspicuous part in the vast drama of the word! Yours in spirit, ****** ****

LETTER III.

How to get subscribers for the Valley Farmer—Pea Bugs

Summitville, Iowa, March, 1850.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer.

I have adopted the plan of taking trade for the Valley Farmer, when I can make a turn and cannot get the money. I think almost any farmer could get a few of his neighbors to take the paper, if, instead of paying them money or merchandise for work or things that he purchases of them, he would induce them to subscribe for the Farmer. It is hard to make farmers that have not read your paper believe that it is the best paper for them that is printed—yet such, I verily believe, is the fact.

I will give you a receipt for saving Peas from the Bugs. I think I read it some years ago in the Albany Cultivator, and have profited by it. As soon as your Peas are dry, shell them and put them in glass bottles and cork them tight.

R. L.

LETTER IV.

Why some farmers do not subscribe.

——, Ill., Feb., 1850.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

I have made considerable effort to get a few subscribers to your publication, but have had rather poor encouragement. A man that cannot read himself, and does not wish to be taught, and does not wish his children to be, will not take a a newspaper. There are a good many illiterate men in our neighborhood, several that think they are not able, and some that take other publications. I think there is need enough for the people to read an agricultural paper and profit by it, but it is hard to make them think so. These are the men who skim over a hundred acres with one half the labor actually required for fifty; they burn up their stubble; burn their straw stack; rake up and burn their corn stalks, and when the manure around the stable gets impassable, why they just move it—the stable, I mean.

These men will tell you that the longer these prairies are worked the better they become. They never plow deeper than the thickness of their skulls, say from three to four inches.

A.

Dependent.—There lives not an independent man. The rich cannot move without the assistance of the poor, and the poor would starve if it were not for the rich. The first man who stood up before the world and exclaimed, 'I am independent,' took his own life, and died like a fool. The moment we feel that we are strong in ourselves alone, and need not the help, and advice, and smiles even, of our fellow-men, we are wretched in the extreme, and begin to look to other worlds for the happiness that is denied us in this. In the world of nature nothing appears to thrive alone. A single tree in a wide field struggles hard to live and flourish. A pond will become dry without the assistance of the little rivulets. And man, independent of others, sinks to the dust. We are all dependent—one as much as another; and therefore none should be proud and lifted up. The humble make the powerful—the weak make the strong—the rich make the poor, and all at last will mingle with the common dust, and ascend to the same God.

Industry.—Excellence is never granted to man, but as the reward of labor. It argues, indeed, no small strength of mind to persevere in the habits of industry without the pleasure of perceiving those advantages, which, like the hand of a clock, whilst they make hourly approaches to their point, yet proceed so slowly as to escape observation.

House Painting.

A new style of colors has come into vogue within a year or two, which we think very tasteful and becoming. The different shades of dark brown or chocolate color, when properly applied, have a very happy effect in setting off heavy cornishes, mouldings and friezes.

To those who have been in the habit of contemplating and admiring the staring, whitened wood sepulchres of new towns and villages, this recent style will look heavy and sombre: but on acquaintance improves, and looks admirable. It gives a solitude and richness, in keeping with good taste and refinement.

These dark colors, if rightly compounded, will outlast by many times, the whites and yellows. Modern white lead is made by a new process, which will convert as many pounds of lead in forty hours, as the old process did in forty days, and then often is adulterated with barytes and lime, and is not worth one fortieth as much, for outside work. It is not a pure carbonate of lead, but a salt rather than a pigment, at least the low priced article, and has a tendency to sapouify the oil, and render it miscible with water, and the rains and vicissitudes of the elements destroy and carry it off. White, for work exposed to the weather, is a poor color to endure at the best. The ochers are also short lived. They are clay, colored with carbonet of iron, which soon oxidize and become black. The fine yellows are too expensive, and the color foppish and in bad taste.

All the metallic oxides are durable—Spanish brown and Venetian red, which are oxides of iron, and red lead, the oxide of lead. In fact, no color, except it has a metallic base, can be depended upon, with the exception of lamp black, which being pure carbon, is unchangeable, and all colors into which it enters are improved in durability.

Oils for outside painting, should, in all cases, be heated up to the boiling point, to dissipate the

waters and destroy the mucilage, but not made as drying as for inside work—except for white and flying and fading colors—and then it should be well boiled with dryers to form a varnish over the paint so as not to allow the oil to soak into the wood, leaving the colors naked and exposed.

The object of painting is not to impregnate the wood to preserve it, but to cover and shield it from moisture and the effects of the atmosphere, and its decomposing agents; therefore painting with raw oil is not allowable in any case.

Turpentine.—It is a mistaken idea that spirits of turpentine cause paints of any kind to dry. It is a volatile oil, and soon evaporates; and, except so far as its own material as a liquifier is concerned, it has no other effect than to cause paints to spread evenly and easily, which in rich boiled oils is necessary. For inside work, where a dead color without lustre is required, it enters largely in the composition of colors; but in outside work its effects are decidedly bad, and should never be used.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Education and Choice of Profession.

BY JOHN A. KENNICOTT, M. D., OF THE GROVE, ILL.

Continued from page 84, Vol. I.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

You have my promise, yet I could never write or give reasons "on compulsion," even were "reasons as plentiful as blackberries;" and sooth to say, this same subject of education, &c. is rather a compulsory one to-day. Still, our laws should, and the laws of progress will, ere long, compell all to educate themselves. I will, therefore, write on, and say no more about my humor.

I have always thought, and still think, that in this country, at least, suffrage should be universal—with one only, actual restriction, after age and citizenship: and that great requisite should be a certain amount of education, or rather knowledge. This legal qualification should comprise reading and common arithmetic, a general knowledge of the history and geography of our own country, and a tolerable understanding of the powers and working of the constitution of these United States, and the State in which we live.

Give the voter so much knowledge and he will soon acquire more, and he will always vote right; for he will vote understandingly. And these qualifications are, at this day, positively essential.

In the great and growing West, whose destiny is no longer problematical—as the curtain which veils the glorious future is pervious to the vision of every mind, that the Creator has lit up from the flame of his own high altar of thought, and imbued with the knowledge of good, and the prescience of things to come, derived from a thoughtful consideration of those that have been, and the powers of nature and of science, and the unlimited capacity of our boundless territory.

Sons of the West! know ye not that in your hands will, ere long, be placed, not only the "balance of power," but the power itself, to fashion and to guide the moral and political destiny of this great nation? Blink the question as we may, such is the fiat of inevitable destiny. This Union can never be dissolved, for we can never permit it. Neither can we escape this great responsibility. We are, nine tenths, Farmers and Mechanics; and shall we still permit a few selfish and designing demagogues—not a tythe of them of us, or for us—to wheedle us out of our votes, and wield, in our name, and by our authority, this tremendous power? A power, for which we alone are responsible to God and our country—our children and their children, and the oppressed and down-trodden sons and daughters of our "Fatherland," and the whole world of mankind?

No! No! The Genius of the nineteenth century forbids it. Common sense and common honesty forbids it, and our own especial interests—too long neglected by mere party politicians—will yet arouse the true sons of Noble Labor—the hard-handed, open-hearted, clear-headed men of the Plow, the Hammer and the Pruning Knife—and cause them to investigate their own political affairs, and exact a strict account from their well paid "servants," who act as such, when soliciting our "sweet voices" only. It will be well for the ambitious man who learns his new lesson early—and better for him who has it already by heart. And thank God, there have been, and now are, great and good men in high stations. To them let us look, on them let us depend yet a little longer. Let us tarry until our beards be grown—our alloted handfuls of brains embued with the knowledge and discretion necessary to a correct understanding, and a firm and successful accomplishment of our great purpose, our irresistable will.

George Washington recommended us to Congress: but nothing was done for the ignorant and abased farmer. Others have from time to time glanced at the national importance of our pursuits, or more boldly presented our case to State Legislatures, or in the councils of the nation—but without avail. We were still left to toil and dig on in darkness and error, until a mightier engine arose, until the Agricultural Press came to our aid! and since the advent of numerous and cheap Farming papers, our Star has been in the ascendant, and has ever grown brighter and brighter, and will continue to shine on, until the end of all things.

But, brother farmers, we must have more help—specific aid. We must have justice. If we prove not recreant to our own best interests, we shall have all that we require. President Tay-

lor has found the foot prints of the Father of his Country—and as of us, has nobly urged our claims. Now is our time, let us sustain his recommendation, and demand of our Representatives what he advises. We want an "Agricultural Bureau" at Washington, with a Farmer at the head of it, and practical men—not politicians—in every department thereof. 'Tis but little we ask of Congress, and we shall deserve disappointment if we even admit the possibility of a failure; for is not our will law, in the last resort?

Look at New York, her agriculture, and her great State Agricultural Society, as well as her beneficent system of public education. And yet in what particular has nature favored this great State, in which she has not been still more lavish to us? Is her soil richer, her climate better, or her sons more energetic, or more industrious? No. Then wherein consists her surpassing excellency? *Her children are better educated*, and her sons know and assert their rights. Great men have been in her councils, and great minds still influence her legislation. Governor Fish has recommended what the State Society and individuals had determined to have, an *Agricultural College* for the education of the sons of farmers; and will the people of the Empire State fail in obtaining what they ask, think you? Unless the farmers themselves are both bigotted and blind, they will have not only one college and one experimental farm, but one in every Senatorial district; and then "a long good night" to half the mere "institutions of learning," where the brains of our young men are coined into Latin and Greek, and the purses of their ambitious parents emptied to make them, too often, mere drones and nonentities.

"Sour grapes," did you say, my friend? Now I assure you, my very learned sir, that I happen to know something about what I write—though I have little Latin and less Greek. Would that I had the time lost in attempting to compass them, though I never lost any time, at other than a medical college. Show me the usefulness, not to say necessity of this sort of learning, and I will advocate it. Better and wiser men than I, condemn your old routine, and your learned lumber. Men of great minds, who have toiled years, and frittered away a world of genius and sterling talent, in order to acquire a "classical education," have time and again, admitted the truth of my statement. Then why should I be silent when my brother farmer asks my opinion?

"Learning" is not knowledge. Than this there is no axiom more truthful in education. And the learning of the 18th century was worse than useless, and cannot long obtain in the nineteenth. The time has now arrived for a better and more rational system of superior education; and 'classic lore' will, ere long, be swept from our colleges as the 'Iron horse' has pushed the heavy waggon and post coach from our great thoroughfares. Greek and Latin, and a heap of other nonsense, once exclusively taught in our colleges, have become as useless as a sun-dial for a plow, or an almanac for the man-in-the-moon.

Perhaps it may be rather premature for us in the West, to talk about Agricultural colleges, though I think not. But we must talk about agricultural schools—or schools for agriculturists, if you like this phase of the idea better. We must begin to educate ourselves, specifically, as well as generally—and the sooner the better. Believe me, the thing is entirely practicable, and indeed easy of attainment, in connection with our public schools. All we want is a little governmental or legislative encouragement; a bit of land to every school house, and a school house to every district; books, apparatus, and—Teachers. These we can get, and these we must have. And this brings me to my subject, where I left it so long ago. Have patience with me and I will write, God giving me health, so long as you will read; and in my homely, off-hand way I may chance to tell you many truths. But perhaps I have said enough for once; we will therefore rest awhile.

The Grove, Feb., 1850.

Destruction of the wire worm.—Mr. Little, in a recent number of the Illustrated London News, observes that he had tried the application of the most powerful poisons to the wire worm, such as preparations of corrosive sublimate and arsenic, without destroying its vitality. Even vitriol and aquafortis did not consume the worm until after a considerable time. He next tried liquid ammonia (hartshorn) and the result is said to have been marvellous. The worms were shrivelled up in an instant, and reduced almost to a state of cinder. He afterwards took a portion of the earth containing the worm, mixing it with a small quantity of lime, adding some powdered sal-ammoniac; the result was the decomposition of the latter by lime, and the liberation of ammoniacal gas, which had precisely the effect of the liquid ammonia. This experiment is worth pursuing on a larger scale. Ammonia, it should be remembered, constitutes a most valuable portion of manure.

Observation on the Miller which annoys Bees.—Last season, I allowed about six sunflowers to grow near my beehives. When in flower, they attracted the miller, which fed on them late in the evening, appearing quite stupid, so much so, that I could pick them off with my hand, and deal with them as I could wish. I am now trying several experiments with my bees, the result of which I will make known through the Farmer.—*Mibaigan Farmer.*

For the Valley Farmer.

Mineral Manures.

CONCLUDED.

Of all mineral manures, Lime is most known and generally used, and various have been the conjectures regarding the method of its application. All soils which do not effervesce with acids are improved with mild lime and ultimately by quick lime. Sands are more improved by Lime than clay.

Lime should never be applied with animal manures, unless they be too rich. It is injurious when mixed with any common dung, as it tends to render the attractive matter insoluble.

All limes have not the same effect. Limestones containing alumine or alumina and silica, are less fitted for the purposes of manure than pure limestone, but the lime formed from them has no noxious quality. Such stones are less efficacious merely because they furnish a smaller quantity of quick lime.

Lime that contains magnesia may be applied in large quantities to peat soil. Nitric acid or aque fortis is a simple test to detect the presence of magnesia in lime stone. Steep the stone in the diluted acid, and the magnesia will be detected by its turning the liquid a milky hue. Magnesian lime stones are usually of a brown or pale yellow color.

Salt.—Much has been said for and against salt. Hayward, after making experiments with sea salt, nitre, soda, barilla, and alum, says he never found them to operate as a proportional addition of food might be expected to do, and adds, notwithstanding all that has been said to establish the opinion that sea salt is a valuable manure, I am convinced it never can as an article of food contribute to the increase of any vegetable, but as a chemical agent, by destroying, and facilitating the decomposition of animals and vegetables, or by its delinquesence it may in some instances increase the fertility of the soil. Salt attracts and retains moisture, is offensive to insects, and is doubtloss found in some plants. When used in large quantities it is apt to render land barren, but this abuse is no argument against the proper use of salt.

Gypsum is composed of fifty five parts of lime and seventy five parts of sulphuric acid, but its operation as a manure has not been satisfactorily accounted for.

Bone Ashes—as well as the ashes of a variety of vegetables have been applied in their calcined state, but all act much better before being burnt, the former when ground and the latter as soon after their death as possible.

To the agriculturist the application of mineral manures is of far more importance than to the horticulturist, whose operations rest chiefly on the use of animal and vegetable matters, with which he has been much longer and more intimately acquainted. Indeed, the use of mineral manures is comparatively modern and their effects uncertain.

J. TURNER.

St. Louis, Feb., 1850.

From the Maine Farmer.

BRIMSTONE FOR POTATO ROT.

Last year we published the statement of experiments made by Mr. Thomas McGill of Bath, to prevent and to check potato rot by sifting on lime. This many have tried and found to be useful.

We now give you A. A. Hayes' experiments with the fumes of sulphur, for effecting the same purpose.

Pine Street, Boston, }
21st Jan. 1850. }

Hon. W. B. Calhoun:

Sir—As President of the Agricultural meetings, I do not hesitate in taking the liberty of placing in your hands the enclosed paper. It has been for some weeks my wish to have the subject under the attention of the agriculturists of our State, and I know of no association, or body of them, to which it could be communicated with so much propriety as the one over which you preside. With high respect,

A. A. Hayes.

We are indebted to J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., for the first demonstration of the causes of the present destructive disease in the potato, being a fungus growth. The subsequent inquiries, up to the latest observations, have only slightly modified the conclusions arrived at in this country, by substituting for the changes produced by a vegetating fungus, those induced by a decay of that growth.

The rapid decay which continues after the roots have been removed from the soil, is often of the most remarkable character; and, aside from its economical bearing, is a subject of scientific importance. During the last season, I made trial of some chemical agents which specifically arrest all vegetation, hoping to discover an application which would enable us to preserve the diseased potato from further changes.

Early in the course of the experiments, it was noticed that a reduction of temperature by exposure to cold air, greatly diminished the rapidity of decay, while a slight increase of temperature hastened it; moisture being present or not. Heat, in a moist atmosphere, increases the destruction, and samples which had been cooled and thereby partly protected, readily passed through all the changes when again exposed to warm and hurried air. After using several substances, by direct contact with diseased parts of potatoes, I soon found that the mixture of sulphurous acid, nitrogen and common air, such as exists when sulphur is burnt in close vessels, would prevent the further progress of the disease in tubers already affected, and that when exposed in contact with tubers, passing through all stages of the disease, no further change in the prepared ones was induced.

The trials were varied, and the uniformity of the results has led me to conclude that the fumes of burning sulphur, flowing in contact with potatoes partly dis-

eased, will arrest the further progress of the disease and prevent decay. It is proper that this conclusion should be received as an expression of fact, under the circumstances of experiments on a small scale, and with no more than two varieties of potatoes: but I confidently expect that the importance of the application will be seen in the largest exhibition of its effects.

The practical use of the sulphurous acid gas is very simple, and not expensive. Crude sulphur inflamed in a shallow, cast-iron vessel, or an earthen pot, furnishes the fumes which may be led by wooden pipes to the lower parts of bins filled with the roots, until the unoccupied space is filled with them. As the fumes coo they become heavier than air, and will then enter every interstice. By placing the pot of burning sulphur in an empty barrel, and inverting over it a barrel filled with potatoes having a light rack in place of a head, the fumes will slowly rise within and impregnate the mass; the barrel and contents being then removed, and the head replaced, the exposure may be considered as ample. Where the quantity is large, it would be economical to leave a space vacant blow the loose floor on which they repose, and introduce there the fumes, until every part of the heap has received a share.

It should be remembered that this application will injure, if not destroy, the vegetating power of the tubers; and that although this result may be highly desirable, for all that are preserved for food, those intended for seed should not be so treated. Respectfully,

A. A. Hayes, M. D., State Assayer.

From Dr. Kennicott's Report.

Pears in Illinois.

Few pear trees were planted in Illinois until the last three or four years. Those that have shown fruit promise very well. My White Doyenn's, the last year, were truly delicious. One tree but seven years from the nursery, produced near a bushel of large, perfectly fair, and very excellent fruit; and it bore perhaps a peck or more the preceding season. A Stephen's Genesee, Easter Buerre, and a few others of doubtful names, have borne well,—and except one, which I take to be a "Monsieur Jean," were good. My Dwarfs have not yet fruited; but in Chicago some have produced well, especially a Bartlett in the garden of J. Y. Scammon, Esq.

Pears are apt to make too much wood here, late in the summer. Many of mine, in the orchard that had made great growth, were winter-killed down to the snow.—The trunk being black and dead, the branches green, and the foliage opening well, when they were discovered and amputated below the line of demarkation, and a few of them have sent up a fine shoot from above the bulb.

I have twice seen what I presumed to be "frozen sap blight," consequent on late growth. I carefully removed the diseased bark, in May, and covered the wound. All the trees recovered, and two of them have borne fruit. I think the affection is not uncommon here, but may in general by avoided.

I have never seen what is known as "Insect Blight," or "Fire Blight," or—par excellence—"Pear Tree Blight," though the affection is said to be well known, far south of us, and possibly west near the Mississippi. A letter from R. Montague, addressed to Mr. Miller, would seem to favor this idea. Mr. Montague says, that "of ninety-six pears in my orchard, all are dead or dying from blight." He is in latitude 42 deg. 30 min., and says that many of his "*apple* trees are dead from the cold of last winter," I therefore conclude that his pears are *winter-killed*, not "blighted." But I will not dwell on this opprobium of our science now; suffice it to say, that I believe we are in the habit of confounding several distinct diseases, of different origin, and requiring different treatment—both preventive and curative—under this dreaded name of "Blight." The one disease, or phase of the disease, most deprecated may be "epidemical," like the potato rot and the cholera, and may possibly like these disappear to return again after an interval (God send it be a long one); or it may be "endemical," and find its origin in a deficiency of some necessary principle, or in the excess of some noxious one, entirely local. The remedy will yet be discovered.—We cannot consent to risk even the partial abandonment of the most popular and delicious fruit in the catalogue; and we are approximating so near to a reasonable certainty in Agricultural, and especially Horticultural science, that we shall for very shame, be compelled to investigate and determine this vexed question.

During the last summer our seedling pears were for the first time badly affected with "Leaf Blight." We received them from the East, and they had suffered from the disease there. This summer our own seedlings, as well as some healthy ones from Canada, lost their foliage from the 20th July to the 10th of August. A few put out new terminal leaves, but the most of them are now, September 1st, entirely naked. Can this disease be contagious? I should think not; and yet this has a sensible leaning that way. The soil on which our seeds were planted was worked two feet deep, and was sufficiently moist. We syrringed with solution of sulphate of iron, but without benefit.

Pear trees of choice varieties are in great demand in our State, and will soon be abundant if we can rear stocks. A few avaricious or ignorant nurserymen have used *sprouts*,—or worse still, the *apple* as stocks, to the evident damage of their reputation, and the great disappointment of many who deserved better treatment at the hands of nurseymen. But there are quacks in all professions, and true men sometimes humbug themselves, and very innocently cheat their best customers.

But, Gentlemen, for the eradiction of all false notions, and the prevention of error, we look to you, and the action of National Fruit Conventions. We are all a very little given to credulity, and we *must* believe each other. And a book before the eye was never yet equal to "the subject" in hand, or under the dissecting knife of the operator.

Hints for the Season.

Seed Corn.—If you would have your seed corn germinate readily, immerse it for a few minutes in scalding water. The practice of coating the kernels with tar, is one of questionable utility, and should never be resorted to, except in cases where the soil at planting is remarkably moist and warm. I have known many failures, attended with disastrous results to the experimenters, from this practice, and would therefore reccomment to all who are unfamiliar with the use of *tar* for this purpose, to use hot water in its stead. A simple immersion is sufficient, and from this no injury whatever can result to the corn, even should it be productive of no advantage in forwarding the crop. There are some seasons so favorable that no preparatory measures or applications are required, and when this is the case none should be used. When corn is planted late however, there is a demand for extra stimuli in Order that the loss of time may be made up, and the crop pushed vigorously forward that it may escape the frost.

Peas.—This vegetable should be sowed as early in

the spring as the state of the weather and condition of the soil will admit. I have even known them to do well when sown before the frost was fairly out of the ground—cold, even when experienced in excess, being but slightly detrimental to their growth during the earlier stages of their development, if, indeed it affects them unfavorable at all.

A portion of every kitchen garden should be appropriated to this nutricious and healthful vegetable, especially as it is one of the two varieties of seeds which popular custom permits us to use in a green state as an article of food. I not at present speaking of the field cultivation of this vegetable; that department of agrestic labor being reserved to be treated in a more extended essay, and at a more appropriate time. On this subject a late writer abserves:

"In the usual manner of the culture of the pea, they are invarible sown in drills; the dwarf sorts three feet and the taller varieties four or five feet assunder. They are kept from weeds, and earthered up with the hoe, and when about eight inches high, they are sticked Without this precaution, the yield wil be comparatively small; as much air and space, they are always sure to be more productive in single rows, than when several rows are sown parallel with each other. The branching kind, particularly knight's marrow, should always be sown in single rows, and the seed very thinly (two inches apart) di posed in drills."

In managing my garden peas, I pursue a somewhat different policy from the above, after preparing the soil, if the seed is of any of the more diminutive or dwarf kinds, I draw my drills four feet apart, and having sprkinled a small quantity of compost, well fined, in the bottom, I commence sticking. This is performed by driving a strong stake at the end of each drill so far and firmly into the soil that it will resist effectually the weight of the full grown vines, or any other weight that may be brought to bear upon it. Three feet from this, in the line of the drill, I place another, and so on to the end. Around the first stake, four inches from the ground, I tie a strong twine, and passing it arouud the next stake, go on to the third proceeding to the end of the drill. The cord is then elevated eight inches, and and firmly secured around the last stake, and passed back to where I commenced, drawing the line "taut," to adopt a sea-phrase, and taking especial care that it is firmly seeccred. By passing alternately backward and forward in this way, a sort of trellis is formed, on which the vines take a ready and firm hold. They have plenty of air, and as the distauce between the rows is four feet, the labor of gathering is easily and expeditiously performed. The pea should be dropped one and a half inches apart in the drills, and covered evenly, the soil above them being firmly compressed with the hoe To the larger varieties, I allow five feet.

The Carden Bean.—This is another excellent vegetable, and by many, scarcely less prized than the pea. It is of numerous varieties, all of which may be now regarded as perfectly acclimate and common, if not indigenous to the soil.

The land for beans (I am speaking of the garden varieties) should be strong, deep and rich, for whatever some may be pleased to say of their capacity of growing on *poor* or *exhausted soils*, the very reverse is the case, beans, like every other production, requiring a *good*, though not excessively rich soil, and an early and favorable start, to perfect their growth. Unlike the pea, they are destroyed by frost and cannot, therefore, be planted so early in the spring.

The Strawberry.—For the strawberry, the soil should be warm and light, containing an obvious predominance of sand. The sets should be planted about ten inches apart, each way. Horse manures, fresh from the stable, and undeteriorated by fermentation, should be applied in liberal quantities to the soil before planting, and well intermixed by digging and raking in. If practicable, no portion of the manure should remain nearer the surface of the bed than five inches, as, at this depth, it will not be liable to dry up, and will furnish, for a considerable portion of the season, the most healthy pasturage and aliment to the plants.

The most successful method of securing good fruit, is to transplant every spring—dividing the roots into as many and minute portions as pos ible; care being had, however, to preserve on each division, a healthy and uninjured joint. Some recommend covering the surface of the soil, between and under the plants with dry straw, just before the fruit ripens. This precaution obviates the likelihood of injury to the berries in consequeuce of their coming in contact with, or being beaten into the sand by rains.

Windham, Me., Feb. 1850.

Hens and Chickens.

We received, a few days since, through the politeness of the committee, an elegant pamphlet of 42 pages, being the "Report of the Committee of Supervision of the first exhibition of Domestic Poultry, held at the Public Garden, in the city of Boston, November 15th and 16th, 1849." Accompanying this Report are some 25 elegant engravings of different uarieties of domestic birds, and the whole work is done up "to Boston."

This Report gives some interesting statistics in regard to the "egg business;" we select the following:

The amonnt of sales of poultry at the Quincy Market, Boston, for the year 1848, was $674,423. The average sales of one dealer alone, amounting to $1200 per week for the whole year. The amount of sales for the whole city of Boston, for the same year, (so far as obtained,) was over one million of dollars.

The amount of sales of eggs, in and around Quincy Market, for 1848, was 1,129,725 dozen, which at 18 cts per dozen (the average price) makes the amount paid for eggs, to be $203,352 30. And from information obtained from other egg merchants in the same city, the whole amount of sales will not fall much, if any, short of a million of dollars, for 1848.

The average consumption of eggs, at three of the hotels, was more than two hundred dozen each day, for the year 1848.

The amount of eggs and poultry sold by one dealer alone in Albany, amounts to between fifty and sixty thousand dollars a year. He is now sending off to New York and Boston markets a ton of poultry, daily.

There were shipped in one day from Cincinnati, five hundred barrels, containing forty-seven thousand dozen of eggs. One dealer in the trade in Philadelphia, sends to the New York market daily, nearly one hundred barrels of eggs.

According to the agricultural statistics of the United States, published in 1840, the value of poultry in the State of New York was $2,373,029; which was more than the value of its sheep, the entire value of its neat cattle, and nearly five times the value of its horses and mules.

The same authority states the total valuation of poultry, in the various States and Territories of the Union, to be $12,164,613; of which Illinois had $330,968, Missouri $230,283, and Iowa $17,101.

We frequently meet with articles in the newspapers upon the profits of poultry keeping; and we believe that properly managed this department of domestic economy may be made as profitable as any about the farm. The following communication from Charles P. Smith, of Ontario, N. Y., we cop. from the Rural New Yorker:

"Several years since, my attention was called to the profits of keeping poultry, as a branch of productive industry. No one within the circle of my acquaintance had a practical knowledge of the business, and having no reliable book authority, I was obliged to adopt the slow but sure method of learning by experience. And, although I have not, like the Vermont correspondent of the Genesee Farmer made a fortune from three pullets, —nor been able to raise or fatten poultry on coal or brick dust--yet at the end of each year, bid ly has managed to bring me in debt to her for labor and services rendered. The following is my account current for the past year:—

Poultry Yard,	*Dr.*
To 276 hens,	$45 12
34 ducks,	6 80
14 bushels mill feed,	2 46
13 do oats,	4 00
10 do screenings,	2 25
23 do buckwheat,	8 26
135 do corn,	68 83
475 pounds of tallow scraps,	4 75
	$142 47
Poultry Yard,	*Cr.*
By 14,182 hens' eggs,	$127 27
1,269 ducks' eggs,	12 44
10 pounds ducks' feathers	5 00
24 do hens' do	1 50
164 hens sold	30 52
6 chickens do	64
33 ducks do	5 62
140 hens kept over	20 28
	$203 27
Balance in favor of poultry yard,	$60 80

For fear of making this article too lengthy I omit further details than to say, that the food was all bought and charged at prices paid. The products were mostly sold in Rochester, at market prices, and credit given accordingly. The manure will be a fair set off for the use of the land and fixtures. The care and attention was mainly performed by a boy 16 years of age, and did not occupy him more than two hours each day.

I have now over four hundred fowls on hand for next season's business, and am in hopes of being able to furnish the good people of Rochester with a "nice parcel" of eggs and chickens.

On Corn Culture.—Mr. J. H. Gill; of Mount Pleasant, has sent us a sam le of corn, of a variety called, in that neighborhood, "Cuppy Corn," which he states is more productive and valuable than the ordinary kinds. It is not very peculiar in appearance, but we should think it would ripen early and yield well. (We will try it on our new farm purchased the last mon h.) Mr. Gill gives the following, as his method of growing corn, by which he sometimes has over 100 bushels per acre!

I plant my corn 3 1-4 feet by 3 1 4 ditto—3 stalks to the hill. The object in planting so close, is, that the blossom may fall on the *silk*, so as to make the ears fill well. Plant about the 10th of May. I have planted this variety as late as the 11th of June, and had a first rate sound crop of corn. I never have any soft corn from this kind; it always gets ripe before frost, and will produce from 100 to 115 bushels per acre, if the land is right and well cultivated. My system of cultivating it is this: the ground well plowed and well harrowed; this done, I consider the crop half made. My method of planting, is, to make marks on the top of the ground, (instead of furrows,) with light one-horse plow.—The ground is apt to be cold early in the season, therefore the necessity of planting near the surface. I give the preference to the *double shovel* plow, over either harrow or cultivator—*they* leave the ground too level for the growth of corn, especially where the land is wet and cold. Corn requires *heat*, *light*, and air—the plow opens up the ground, and lets in heat, which I assure you is very nourishing to this beautiful plant. Give it a fair trial. I have had my corn grow as much in four weeks, with the use of the double shovel plow as it ever did in six with the cultivator or harrow.—*Ohio Cultivator.*

In Virginia there is a mode of making soap, adopted by the country people, which they call the "cold process," that deserves to be made generally known. It is thus described by a farmer's wife: "I put my barrel (a common fish barrel) in the cellar where it is intended to stand, and fill it nearly full of strong ley; then add as much grease without melting it, as I think sufficient stirring it once every day or two. In a few days I can tell whether I have put too much or too little grease, and add ley or grease as the case may require. In two or three weeks it becomes excellent soap. We call it the cold process. In this way we make better soap, get rid of the trouble and risk of boiling, and can make it as suits our convenience, or occasion requires."

"Digby, will you take some of the butter?" "Thank you, marm, I can't take any thing *strong*; I belong to the Temperance Society."

Corn and Cob Meal.

Much diversity of opinion seems to prevail as regards the value of cob meal, for food for cattle, horses and hogs. It has been the opinion of most farmers that the cobs were of little or no value, and they have either been used for fuel, or thrown aside as of but little use except for manure. We have for a long time been much in favor of corn and cob meal, not only from our own experience but that of others. It is a great saving in point of economy; and it is generally asserted that horses, mules and cattle are not near as subject to cholic when fed on this kind of meal. Corn meal in its pure state, is generally considered too heating and too concentrated, particularly for working horses, but when mixed with the cob forms a very superior and nutricious food. It is supposed to act mechanically, too, by distending the stomach, by which digestion is rendered much easir and more perfect. It renders the meal more light and bulky when well mixed with the grain, by which the meal is more throughly acted upon by the gastric juice of the stomach, consequently more perfectly digested.

When it is considered how many thousands of bushels of corn cobs are annually thrown away, or wastefully used for fuel, it becomes a matter of deep interest to every farmer to know the value this offal of the farm is entitled to as food for cattle.

As to the benefit of grinding the corn with the cob, we think it varies with the nature of the corn—being greatest with the hardest and most flinty varieties.

By a nicely conducted experiment made some years since, by P. Minor, of Virginia, it was ascertained that five bushels of cobs yielded four gallons of spirit. But this experiment does not settle the question as to how much nutriment the cobs contain. Besides the principle of *alcohol* to be found in all *grain*, and most vegetables, there are other substances, or principles in all, possessing nutritive qualities, among which may be enumerated the saccharine and oleaginous properties infinitely valuable, as these are known to be active agents in the production of fat, et cetera.

By an analysis, which is now being made in the laboratory of Dr. Emmons, by Mr. Salisbury, we are informed that the cob affords two per cent of albumen and casein, besides other nutritive matter.

The opinion expressed of those who have given it a fair trial, is altogether in its favor. "We cannot," says the editor of the American Agriculturis., "too earnestly call the attention of our readers in those portions of the Union where labor is cheap and fuel dear, and mills are found for the purpose, to the importance of grinding or crushing their corn cob for horses, cattle and sheep, and when it can be cooked, for swine also. Sufficient experiments have been made to establish the great benefits of them when so used in proportion to their weight. Boiling or fermenting them after crushing adds to their value."

We advise, therefore, that every farmer that raises ten acres of corn should save his corn cobs for his cattle, and that to render them available he should provide himself with the means of reducing them to meal, if not that of cooking them also.

Since the introduction of horse-powers, mills grinding feed for stock have been in request. In 1842, at the Fair of the New York State Agricultural Society, several mills were exhibited for reducing corn and cobs to meal, among which one was exhibited by O. Hussey, of Baltimore, of his own invention, which took the first premium. This mill we have now in our possession, and has been in use for the last six years, without any repair, only renewing the grinders, as they wear out, at the trifling cost of about 80 cents a set. It will grind corn, oats, and peas, as well as corn and cobs, sufficiently fine for feeding stock. It requires the power of two horses to do good work.

We have one of Pitt's corn and cob cutters, which we have had in use two years, which requires less power, and works equally well, whether the corn be soft or hard. It consists of a cast iron wheel about nine inches in diameter, the rim four inches wide, armed with a series of small chisel-shaped teeth or knives, set like plane-irons in the face, in a very simple manner; one set of teeth following in the space of the others, alternately, by which the clipping is done. These knives can be taken out ground and replaced in a few moments; and a new set can be obtained for $2,,50. If care is taken to introduce no hard substance, such as iron and stone, into the mill, one set of knives will last for a long period. It will grind from three to four hundred bushels before the knives require sharpening. When in good order, with a two horse power, it will rdduce from three to four bushels of dry, hard corn in the hour, and nearly double that quantity when soft.

Mr. Pitt's has made an improvement on this machine by enlarging the diameter and width of the operating wheel and increasing the number of knives, by which means a much larger quantity can be ground in a given time. We have been informed by Mr. P. that it will grind in this form from ten to twelve bushels per hour.—The price of the small mill is $40 and the large one $50, and are manufactured by John A. Pitts, Springfield, Ohio.—*American Journal of Ag.*

From the Ohio Cultivator.

Use of Green and Dry Wood for Fuel.—"Green wood will last longer than dry, and so will straw for cattle, last longer than hay." This declaration was long since made by an author calling himself the Prompter. But durability is one thing, and utility is another. Who has not learned the greater value of dry than green wood, for fuel, and yet how few lay in a supply for autumn rain, or winter snow; and how many, otherwise perhaps, good providers, put off the building of a wood-house for five, ten or twenty years, and many who have this convenience, continue to simmer away their *two barrels of water* from nearly every cord of wood they burn. The most common objection to the timely preparation of stove wood, is, the great amount of labor required at one time, and for this reason it is deferred to a more convenient season, or until it must *be done*. And now that mid-winter, the time for cutting and hauling

wood has arrived, I would beg leave to present to your readers a remedy for these evils; and I hope my brethren of the mallet and the plow, will not think me egotistical, if I should make some allusion to my own experience.

Let trees be fallen and cut in such length, that a team will draw them on a bob-sled, to the place desired; lay them together on poles lying on the ground; attach a cross-cut saw to a horse power, so geared that the crank will make about thirty revolutions, while the horse goes once around a circle of about twenty feet diameter; if the horse is a good walker, this motion is quick enough for the rapidity of the saw, and if all is well arranged, one horse will do the work, but two are better to keep up a strong steady motion. A light balance wheel is necessary to give regularity to the motion. Two posts should be erected about 2 1-2 or 3 feet apart, one side of each nearly in line with the saw, a square groove in the sides next the saw, another piece fitted and screwed on at the top and bottom with a corresponding grove, the wood about an inch apart, with the saw between; next four pieces of hard wood, so fitted as to slide in each groove and nearly touch the saw; let each pair be screwed together above the saw with two wood screws pinching a piece of hard leather at each screw nearly the thickness of the saw, the lower piece between the lower screw and back of the saw, the slides of sufficient length to keep the saw steady and play so easiy in the groove as to rise and fall with the saw.

There should be a safe and convenient way of raising and letting down the saw, without stopping the team, I prefer a ten, or at most a twelve inch crank, and a pitman in two parts introduced with a joint into a swing suspended some ten feet above; a rail track thirty or forty feet long, placing the end of each bed-piece at the post through which the saw plays. The car which carries the last end of the log, may be made with two wheels, and an axle with arms framed to the back side at such an angle, that the ends will follow the wheels, and so beveled forward, that the weight will be a little back of the bearing, and to this axle the log should be firmly dogged. The first end of the log should rest on a roller, or windlass, with the middle so girded down that the log will keep the centre, and spikes driven in to draw the log forward. A piece should be fastened to the outside of one of the posts about even with the bottom of the log for the block to rest on until it is sawed quite off; the other end to be raised and lowered at pleasure. Without this the block will frequently drop, taking a sliver with it which may make trouble. The pitman should find a resting place when the saw gets through, so that if it is not raised immediately it can do no injury, and a guide each side near the saw to keep it straight.

Such a machine has no electro, nor railroad speed, nor California dust about it; but if got up mechanically, is a good investment of some fifty dollars; but if "botched up" it will probably prove a failuere, and be thrown by in despair.

I have used one four seasons, my custom is to haul on the snow a supply for a year or more, in the spring saw and split them, throwing it into a pile, let it lie through the summer and then put it into the woodhouse; one man finds business enough to split and throw back as fast as it will saw. I find it an easy and quick way of making stove wood.

For sawing wood exclusively, I would recommend a cast iron horse power, with just wheels sufficient to get up the motion, as it would probably be the cheapest and the most durable, and when the sawing was done for the season it might be put away. A buz saw might be connected to saw the limbs.

The advantages of using mostly dry wood for a stove are many. There is the joy-lighted countenance of the "better half," the pleasure of children, the comfort of guests, the ready kindling, warming, and cooking; and when cut in this way, the uniformity of length, the saving of labor, the saving of logs that would otherwise go to waste, the saving of chips, and the having it done up for the season.

If Mr. Prompter is correct in his assertion, (which I will not deny,) it is easy to have green wood to use as occassion may require in the winter; and in the summer the cook will never call for it if there is plenty of dry.

Calvin Stow.

Araceville, Ohio, Jan. 1850.

Casting up Accounts. —The subject of the following anecdote, writes a friend, is an old and respectable physician, who is now a very strenuous temperance man, although in his young days he sometimes patronised the groceries overmuch. On one occasion, having indulged very freely in a variety of spirituous decoctions with some boon companions, he mounted his mare and started for home. He had not rode far, however, before the commingling of spirits in his stomach gave rise to such a furious rebellion that he was fain to dismount and come to an anchor against a large log by the roadside, where he commenced a process of upheaval that was truly alarming. While engaged in these spasmodic efforts at relief, he was accosted by a traveler who with true Yankee solicitude, enquired what was the matter. The inebriate, in an interval of the paroxysm, gruffly replied, that he had traded horses, and was very sick of his bargain!

Here is a strange thing under the sun. Byron and Moore, for writing libidinous poetry, have been rewarded by thousands and thousands of dollars. Dick, for giving to the world a series of books, religious and instructive, is rewarded by leave to beg his bread. David says, "I have been young and now am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." If he had lived to this day, he might have seen it. Christians! is your charity a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal, when you allow so noble a specimen of humanity, as Dr. Dick, to be destitute of the common requirements of life?

Application of Manures.—The question relating to the application of manures appears to be a very simple one. A dead animal left to decay on the surface of the earth, will, as decomposition proceeds, nearly all escape into the atmosphere in the shape of gases. The same is true of a heap of vegetable matter. Ashes, lime (in any of its forms,) soda, and all the mineral salts, absorb from the atmosphere, and wasting away descend and mingle with the soil. Hence in applying animal or vegetable manures bury them in the earth, (unless in a liquid state,) that on decomposition, the elements may in their ascent, be absorbed by the soil and be food for the plants. In the use of mineral manures, place them on or near the surface, that on decomposing they may descend to the roots of the plants. —*Genesee Farmer*

Inverting Fence Posts.

Articles have been published occasionally, showing the advantage of inverting fence posts, in order to prevent their decaying so readily as they do in their natural position. Many plain and strong facts have been brought forward in favor of this improvement, and yet most farmers go on in the old way, unmindful of these facts, and still complaining of the scarcity of timber, the great expense and transient nature of fences. Verily we need line upon line. With this view of the subject, we copy the following article from the Germantown Telegraph, a paper, by the way, that has a most excellent agricultural department, and from which we frequently copy very instructive articles:—*New England Farmer.*

Mr. Fread: I have frequently seen it asserted in the agricultural journals and other papers, that fence posts, by being inverted, last much longer and are more durable in every description of soil, than when set in the ordinary way. The experiments and *facts* adduced in support of this position have accumulated so fast of late, that it appears to me the most sceptical must waver under so vast a weight of unimpeachable testimony. In my own experience, nothing calculated either to confirm or contradict this theory has yet occurred; but I have the written testimony of several enlightened friends to corroborate its correctness. A neighbor of mine, who, some years since, resided in one of the New England States, informed me recently that he had occasion, while there, to build a line of fence, on a cross road, dividing his estate, and that, having heard of the superior durability of posts when inserted in this way, he undertook to test the theory, and for this purpose set every other post (they were of white oak) with top down. This he thinks was in 1830 or 1831. In visiting his old homestead last autumn, he had the curiosity to inspect this fence, and to his surprise found that those posts which had been set in an inverted order, were, to all appearance, sound and good, while those which had been set with the butts down were, in almost every instance, decayed. In some few instances it had been necessary to replace the latter, and those which had not been replaced were so rotten that a slight concussion would have been sufficient to break them at the surface. Another friend, twenty-one years since, in the same state, set two chestnut posts for the purpose of hanging a gate. Three years since, one of these posts, which had been placed in the soil with the butt end down, was examined, and found to be too much decayed to subserve any longer the end for which it was designed; while the other, set with the top end in the soil, scarcely exhibited any appearance of rot. On the same farm he also built a line of stake and board fence, one half of which he built with the stakes inverted. This half of the line remained perfectly erect and the stakes sound for a period of four years; the other part, where the stakes were inserted in the ordinary way, required resharpening the second spring. Such testimony, coming as it does from valuable sources, ought at least to have some weight in our minds; and even though it should fail to produce actual conviction, it ought to induce us to make experiments, by which, ultimately, we could not fail of arriving at the truth. By charring slightly the surface of wood intended to be inhumed in the soil, either for fencing or other purposes, its durability is greatly increased. Posts, so prepared, last a long time; so also do stakes.

A MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMER.

Dec. 1, 1849.

Benefits of Agricultural Exhibitions.

Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune, in writing from the State Fair at Syracuse, thus speaks of the utility of such exhibitions:

"There cannot be less than two or three hundred different kinds of agricultural implements on exhibition here—hore-rakes, cultivators, straw-cutters, subsoil and all other plows, new bee-hives, water wheels, horse-power saws, &c. I consider this altogether the most important feature of the Fair. A great ox may be reared by a greater fool; but no man who ever worked a year at farming can spend a day among these implements and inventions without being stimulated to *think*. The great ends of all such exhibitions is an improvement of the breed of farmers—of men. Now the man who has been skimming over a hundred acres of land for the last twenty or thirty years, plowing six inches deep, manuring with his good wishes, and growing fifteen or twenty bushels of corn to the acre, cannot spend a day in one of these Fair enclosures, without being startled and ashamed. These subsoil plows, one of which properly used, would double his usual product of corn and vegetables, and on dry seasons treble it—these straw-cutters, with one of which his scanty crop of hay might have been made with the aid of straw, &c. to winter his stock bountifully—the cultivators, seed-planters, horse-rakes and other labor-saving implements, must set him thinking. What sort of crops do these farmers obtain who use such implements? Who makes the most by farming—the fifteen or the fifty bushel corn-growers? What sort of farmers is it who are able to buy land, when any is for sale low for cash?—What sort of farmers leave land in condition to sell advantageously? These questions arise spontaneously in the simplest minds, and they will be answered. I don't believe a farmer can attend three successive Fairs, and not resolve to farm better through his life afterward.

"No other business could bear to be managed so wretchedly as farming still is. Only think of civilized men killing their bees to get the honey, in this nineteenth century after Christ. Killing a cow to obtain her milk would be on the same principle. Yet to this day half the bee-men smother their bees to get the honey, although the land is full of simple and cheap hives, on a more humane and economical principle. How long shall the stupid barbarism of smothering bees be continued?"

From the Ohio Cultivator.

Culture of Evergreens.

SOWING THE SEED.

A taste for evergreen trees is rapidly increasing in this country, especially among the residents of towns and cities, where space can only be afforded for a small number of ornamental trees; and it is desired to give a cheerful aspect to the premises in the winter as well as in summer.

The difficulty of procuring good evergreen trees in this western country, and the want of knowledge in regard to the best kinds, are great barriers in the way of the rapid increase of these trees; but many of our more wealthy and tasteful citizens are beginning to surmount these obstacles. A few kinds of evergreens, as the Balsam Fir, Norway Spruce, Red Cedar, Arbor Vitæ, &c., may be found in many yards and gardens, and will soon become quite common if our nurserymen can manage to grow or import them in sufficient numbers and at moderate prices. At the present time, the supply is wholly inadequate for the demand, both here and in the eastern states.

We have seen many magnificent specimens of the *European Silver Fir* in England, and some very promising ones in this country. It very much resembles, when young, the *Balsam Fir* of this country; but as it becomes old, it assumes a larger and more graceful form, the branches diverging in a horizontal or declining position. Among the latter, those in the old Linnæan gardens at Flushing New York, are the finest; and while at Rochester last fall, we were struck with the beauty and rapid growth of several specimens in the Mt. Hope gardens, which have only been planted 7 or 8 years, and are now 14 or 15 feet high, with branches rom the ground. This tree thrives well on any deep soil moderately rich. Its growth, however, is not very rapid or promising while young—hence it is not a favorite with the nurserymen.

An excellent article on evergreens, with directions for planting, &c., (from the Horticulturist,) may be found in our last year's volume, page 139.

ON RAISING EVERGREENS FROM SEED.

Several nurseryman in Ohio, have made inquiry through our columns for instruction as to the mode of sowing seeds of evergreens, they having generally failed of success in the operation. Our experience has been quite limited on this point, and we have not seen any definite remarks upon it in any work published in this country. No great difficulty is experienced in this business in England and Scotland; but in this climate the hotter sun and greater extremes of temperature render more care necessary, especially in providing shade and moisture to the young seedlings. The following remarks on raising hardy evergreens from seed, are copied from *Loudon's Gardener's Magazine*.

"The common kinds, such as the Scotch Fir, Large Spruce and Silver Firs, Pinaster, and Weymouth Pine Seeds; and even the Deodar and Cedar of Lebanon, may be sown in the open border with great advantage in the following manner:—Select a good loamy soil which is not stiff, but rather sandy, and about the end of March dig and break the surface rather finely; then mark the ground out into beds about four feet wide, leaving an alley of a foot between each bed; and on some fine dry day sow the seeds broad cast; rather thickly, covering them over from a quarter to half an inch deep, according to the size of the seeds: then smooth the surface by gently beating it with the back of the spade;—(this must be done only if the soil is dry, and rather light)—They will then require no other care except keeping them from weeds and the attacks of birds, mice and slugs, which are very destructive to them when they first make their appearance above the ground.

"By placing some small branches thick over the beds until the young plants have thrown off the old seed-coat, they may be protected from the ravages of birds, and from severe winds

"The seeds of the greater part of the pine tribe come up in about six weeks after sowing in the open border, and the most of them will be fit for tran-planting into nursery-rows the first year after sowing; afterwards afterwards they may be treated in the same way as other forest trees."

Ambercombie says: "The seeds of most kinds of evergreen trees and shrubs, such as the Cedar of Lebanon, Pines, Firs, Cypress, Juniper, or Arbor-vitæ, Red Cedar, &c., should be sown in March. Dig a compartment of light ground for these seeds, and divide it into small beds; sow the seed therein, each sort separate, and cover them with light earth, from about half an inch to an inch deep. Watering and shading the beds in dry hot weather, will be very necessary, and to continue it occasionally, while the plants are young.

Molasses in Fattening Hogs.—One of the best articles ever experimented with in fattening swine, is molasses. By mixing saccharine matter with corn or barly mush, hogs can be fattened in one half the time usually consumed by those who express such utter contempt for "book farming." The hog likes greatly either food that abounds in saccharine or in acids. He will fatten on meal sweetened, or meal acidified; and I am really at a loss to decide on which the most rapidly.—Apples boiled, and permitted to stand awhile, are eaten voraciously by this worthy animal, abhorred by the Jews, and he is fattened on them nearly or quite as rapidly as on meal or corn. I some years since slaughtered a hog weighing five hundred pounds after being dressed, which, for seven weeks before he was killed, ate nothing but apples. They were eaten with avidity, and the animal retained his health and bodily vigor surprisingly until brought to the tub. Thinking, before killing him, that a corn keep would tend to solidity the pork, I procured the meal, and had an allowance of dough presented; but *miribile dictu*, he refused it with contempt. This he did for two days, when, fearing that he could not be induced to partake of it—of which indeed there was no prospect, the old food was restored, and on this he was kept during his life. Finer or sweeter pork I never ate. I have also fattened swine on saccharine food with equal facility.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Agricultural College.—A bill has been introduced into the New York Legislature, to establish "The Agricultural College of New York," with an experimental farm attached. It authorises a loan of $100,000 to carry the object into effect.

Agricultural Schools.

We are indebted to Mr. Johnson, Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, for a copy of the *Albany Journal*, containing a sketch of an interesting debate in that city, in which Mr. Johnson, as well as many members of the Regislature, participated. The subject discussed was the propriety of establishing a State Agricultural School.

In reference to such an institution, Mr. J. said, the first question was—do farmers need a better system of education thad they have had? Every candid man would answer this question in the affirmative. We are far behind some portions of Europe in skilful cultivation; and why? Foreign laborers are not superior to ours, but their labors are directed by men who generally bring more miud to the task—who more thoroughly understand the principles of their business. We want an institution where all these principles shall be taught, and where their practical operation shall be demonstrated. But it might be asked, cannot we learn without this school or farm? To this he would say—the great object is to develope the greatest amount of useful knowledge, and disseminate it among the people. An institution like this would become the Normal School of agriculture, and from it would go forth men, properly grounded in the science and practice of husbandry whosh influence would be felt through all parts of the State. The agricultural interest requires and institution that will secure an education for tne farmer equal to that which is conferred by our present colleges and other schools, on those who are engaged in any profession.

Mr. J. urged that the farmers required something as a remuneration for what they had contributed for other interests. The State has expended millions for objects that have not benefitted directly the farmer. It had laid out nearly half a million in the department of Natural History. Now of all this the farmers have not complained; but may they not with propriety ask for an appropriation directly for agricultural education suited to their wants?

Here Mr. J. alluded to the system of surveys commenced by the State Agricultural Society, which he was convinced would be found beneficial in developing the natural resources of the State.

In conclusion, Mr. J. remarked that he thought the time had now arrived for action on this subject. Practical utility is the order of the day. The people are in favor of the principle, and are looking to the present Legislature to second their views in some effectual measure. Not only is this the case with our own citizens, but the eyes of others are turned towards us. In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Illinois, and other States, and even in Canada, the subject is attracting attention, and the Empire State is looked to and expected to furnish the example, and to take the lead in this, as she had done, and he trusted would continue to do, in other great and important enterprises.

Mr. S. S. Randall, of Albany, said his attention had been more particularly called to the subject of agricultural education in connexion with Common Scools. He thought the science of agriculture should take its place with other sciences in those schools; and books containing the elementary principles should be introduced and studied here. It is true, that this would not accomplish all that is requieed; higher institutions are necessary; but the youth should first be prepared for such institutions in the common schools. He admitted that the standard of agricultural education was too low, and the question is—How can it be best raised? Though he (Mr. R.) was in favor of such an institution as had been alluded to, he would first introduce the study of chemistry, geology, mineralogy, &c., into all the schools of the country. He alluded to the agricultural catechism of Prof. Johnston, the study of which, he thought would be highly useful to beginners.

Mr. R. spoke of the advantages of a thorough education to the farmer. These advantages were numerous, and even beyond estimation. Knowledge is not only subservient to the farmer, by enabling him to direct all his operations with greater success in a pecuniary view, but it renders all his labors agreeable and pleasant by making plain to his mind the former mysteries of nature, and enabling him to contemplate the harmonious relation and order of all things.

Mr. Curtis, of Onondaga, was particularly pleased with the idea of teaching the rudiments of the natural sciences in the common schools. He had witnessed a successful example of this kind in his own neighborhood. A female who taught the summer school in his district, encouraged the children to bring in pebbles and specimens of rocks. The teacher, who had devoted considerable attention to geology and minerology, had these specimens arranged in their proper order, and explained to the pupils their geological relations, and their nature and properties. The pupils became delighted, and spent a portion of their leisure time in collecting specimens, and had acquired such a taste for geology and mineralogy that they would pursue the study of those sciences with energy and interest.

Mr. C. expressed himself as being favorably disposed towards all measures that will promote the agricultural interest. As to the establishment of an Agricultural College and Experimenta Farm, it would doubtless be beneficial if founded on a proper plan and righly managed. He was not prepared to speak particularly in reference to the plan which had been reported by the commissioners

Judge Miller, of Rochester, said, though he was not a farmer, he hoped his *son* would be a farmer. He mentioned this as showing the regard he had for the agricultural interest. It is evident that the people of this State have a deep interest in agricultural education. Nine-tenths of our population are farmers, and will probably continue to be so. An important advantage resulting from the better education of this class, would be the prevention of our most enterprising young men being enticed away from agriculture, to seek business in the cities. A proper system of education would render agriculture popular and men would not

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Judge M. illustrated the necessity of *practical* knowledge in regard to agriculture, by refering to his own experience in the use of guano. When that substance was first introduced, he had heard much of its value as a manure, and as soon as he could obtain some he applied it to his pet plants; b it not knowing how to use it, he killed most of the plants. In the application of facts, we must have the benefit of practice and observation.

There was another way in which Judge M. hoped we should derive great benefit from a more thorough knowledge of agriculture. By better cultivation, we shall be enabled to obtain much larger crops, and hence a less extent of land will answer for the same population. This will justify a subdivision of lands into small farms, and we shall thus be enabled to retain a highly useful and large class of citizens, all of whom will be interested in the land, and consequently in the institutions and welfare of the State.

Mr. Brewer, of Tomkins, was confident that the study of books on agriculture might be introduced into the Common Schools with advantage. During the first visits of the Superintendent of Schools in the county where he resided, a class was formed for studying a manual on agriculturer, (Taylor's.) The class made good progress, and the study was evidently useful.—But we needed a higher institstution, and it had been a subject of regret to him, that we had not one in the State. He had seen something of the great advantages, which such an institution may confer. He had a son at the School of Agriculture connected with Yale College, under the charge of Prof. Norton. He had been there a year and a half, spending his vacations at home, on the farm, applying to practice, as much as possible, the knowlege he had acquired; and enough had already been demonstrated in this way, to settle in his mind the question as to the utility of such an education.

In connection with this subject, Mr. B. alluded to the necessity of more correct statistical information in regard to agricultural products than we had yet obtained. He was certain that the last census was very imperfect—the number of acres in the different crops, and their yield having been in many cases, only *guessed* at.

Gen. Burroughs, of Orleans; was not prepared to speak in detail in reference to the subject under consideration, but would remark, that there were many points of view in which such an institution as is contemplated would be useful. The establishment of a good veterinary school in connexion with such an institution, would, in a few years, save a greater amount, in the lives of animals, than the whole institutiton would cost; and yet this was only one of many branches of useful knowledge that would there be taught. He was for using *all* means that would promote the dissemination of knowledge among farmers. Agricultural papers were important means of this kind. To them was owing much of the interest now manifested in agricultural improvement, and he rejoiced that their circulation was increasing. The Transactions of the State Society embodied, every year, a vast amount of valuable information for the farmer. Farmers also might derive much benefit from conversation with each other, and in this view, meetings for the discussion of subjects pertaining to their interest, were productive of good. He hoped all the members of the Legislature would attend *these* meetings. The subject of the establishment of an Agricultural School and Experimental Farm would soon come before them, and a preliminary discussion here would enable them to act on it more understandingly. He hoped to hear the views of all in reference to the general subject, and also in reference to a plan and its details.

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Life.—In any adversity that happens to us in the world we ought to consider that misery and affliction are not less natural than snow or hail, storm and tempest; and that it was as reasonable to hope for a year without winter as for a life without trouble. Do well while thou livest but regard not what is said of it. The humble current of little kindnesses, which, though but a creeping streamlet, incessantly flows, although it glides in silent secrecy within the domestic walls, and along the walks of private life, and makes neither noise nor appearances in the world, pours in the end a more bountiful tribute into the store of human comfort and felicity, than any sudden and transient flood of detached bounty, however ample, that may rush into it with a mighty sound.

Flowers in Winter.—The Germans are a curious people—full of invention and metaphysics, and as anxious for what they consider improvement, as a country gil is for a new 'gown.' Witness the following. They saw off the branch of any shrub which will answer the purpose, and then submerge it for the space of one or two hours in a stream of running water. This has a tendency to extract the ice from the bark and soften the buds. The bough or branch is then taken into a warm room, where it is fixed in an upright position, in a box or other suitable respectable, filled with warm water. Lime, freshly burned, is then added to the liquid, and permitted to remain twelve or fourteen hours according to circumstances, when it is removed, and more water added, with which a small quantity of vitriol is added, to prevent putrifaction. In three or four hours, blossoms make their appearance, and are immediately succeeded by leaves. By adding a larger per centum of lime, the process is accelerated; but if it be dispensed with in the process, it is retarded, and the leaves or foliage precede the blossoms.—*Olive Branch.*

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Porous Soil for Potatoes.

It has been remarked by moralists that "blessings brighten as they take their flight." The good, old-fashioned potato used to be raised so easily, and were so abundant that we never realized their worth until the potato rot came, and then the blessings began to brighten, after they had taken their flight beyond our reach. Some remarks in regard to the culture of them we think would not be amiss, even if not quite in season to apply them in the act of planting.

We have always noticed that the best crops of potatoes are raised in what may be called porous soil. For instance, new grounds that have been burnt over, and are full of half burnt leaves and and sticks, and ashes and coal,—and greenswards that have been turned over by the plow and are not compact.

From these facts we have supposed that although the vine of the potato requires some source to obtain potash which enters into its substance largely, yet it requires a chance where the atmosphere can have access to its tubers, and that while it is necessary that they should not be exposed to the scorching sun or drowning water, yet air is a very important element in its successful cultivation, and this it obtains in such situations as we have described above.

In looking over some of the writers who have ventured to suggest anything on this subject, we find one quoted in the New York Farmer and Mechanic, who seems to think that the atmosphere affords the principal part of the nourishment to this crop. It is true that we do not yet, afteer all the researches in the chemical action of the elements, know how they are always assimilated, nor what peculiar changes and affinities are effected during the growth of plants. It is not impossible that decompositions and re-compositions which are silently going on in the plant, may be such as to form substances from the ingredients of the atmosphere and the aeriform substances and vapors with which it is filled, that we supposed must have come from the soil alone. That the potato, for instance, can derive in some mysterious or hitherto unknown process, potash, and lime, and soda, and the other mineral matters it contains, from the atmosphere, and hence the reason why it thrives best in such a porous soil as we have mentioned.

Among the many plans devised to cultivate the potato, if you have not a piece of burnt ground, or turf, the breaking up of sward-land and manuring with coarse, strawy manure, if you are sure of sufficient moisture, is the best.

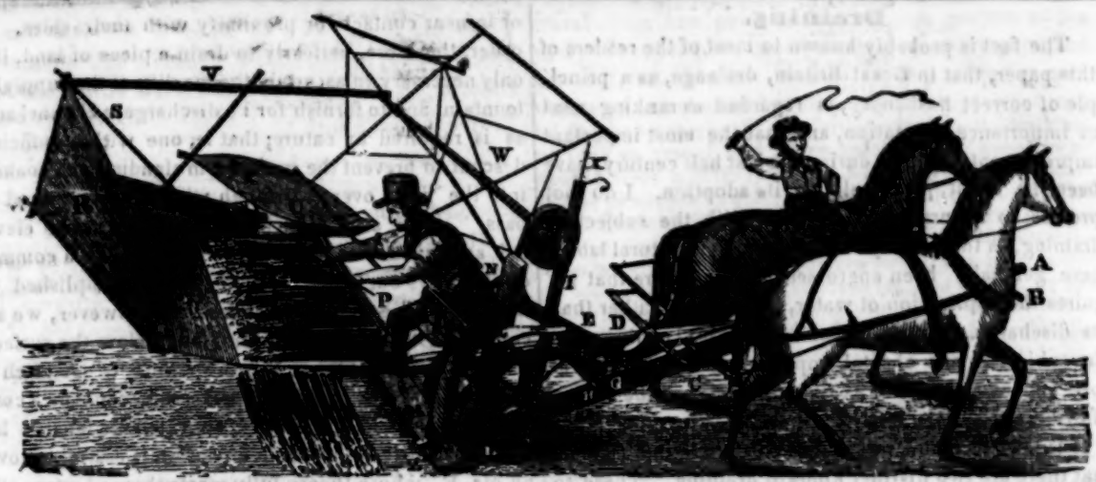
The writer, to whom we alluded above, says that the following is the most successful plan that he has found in the cultivatinn of this vegetable, and that he speaks from experience.

Select a piece of hard trampled ground, the harder the better. A lot on which stock of any kind, but particularly hogs have been kept and fed, will be found to be the best. Break it up well, thoroughly and deeply one way, no matter how cloddy; and do not harrow it any, but let the clods remain unbroken. The ground being thus broken one way, lay it off into rows the other way, or across the plowing, two and a half or three feet apart. Open these with a plow, running it back in the same furrow, so as to open the trench as widely and as deeply as possible; cut all the large seed potatoes so as to have a sufficiency of eyes on each piece. Then drop them in about six inches apart. Now fill the trench with straw or chaff, or if neither of these can be obtained, with leaves from the woods or trash of some sort. This is very important to a successful cultivation of the potato, not as is generally supposed, because it gives the potato room to grow and expand in, (though this is of some importance,) but because, as we have shown, it furnishes it with a kind of bed or nursery to grow in. We do not deny that it may receive some nutriment from the decomposing straw, but then it must be entirely different from that afforded by soil, as the straw must be entirely decomposed before it can enter into the composition of soil. The trenches thus filled may be covered with the plow, and the "middles" entirely broke by the plow to the ridges, so as to leave a furrow only between each. Two workings, a weeding, and then afterwards at the proper time a hilling up, each aided by the plow about twice between each row, will generally complete the cultivation.—*Maine Farmer.*

To Make and Preserve Sausages.—I send a receipt for preserving sausages, that is worth one year's subscription to *The Cultivator*, to every family that makes much use of them that does not already know it. Although too late for the last killing time, it will soon come around to another. And while I am about it, I will give my mode of seasoning them, as I have done it for twenty years. For one hundred pounds of meat, I 1-2 pound of fine salt, 6 ounces of black pepper, powdered, and 3 1-2 ounces of sage. For market or immediate use, a little more salt might be added.

And now for preserving them. Immediately after the meat is seasoned, make it up into small cakes, (say as large as a tea cup,) and fry them in the usual manner until nearly done—or quite done I think best. Then have clean small earthen or stone pots ready, and pack the cakes in as closely as possibly till nearly full, pouring in the fat that comes out in frying them—then put a weight on, sufficient to keep them down until cold. If there is not enough fat fries out to cover them, supply the deficit with clean melted lard. When they are perfectly cold, it is best to put a little more melted lard on, as there will sometimes be cracks made in cooling—put a paper cover over them, and set them in a dry cool place, and they will keep from New Years till after the next harvest as good as when put up, or nearly so.—They will keep, I suppose, as well in large pots as small ones, until they are opened. It is only necessary to warm them up for use. Try it—there is no mistake in it. I have proved it.—*Albany Cultivator.*

Speaking of apples, it is very remarkable that the first *apple* in Paradise should have turned out the first *pair.*



McCormick's Virginia Reaper.

Above is a repre-entation of this celebrated Reaper, a notice of which may be found on our advertizing pages. These reapers have had a more extensive sale than any other machine of the kind ever introduced to the favor of the western farmers; and wherever they have been used, we believe they have given perfect satisfaction.

These machines are peculiarly adapted to our level prairie country, and every farmer will find them of vast utility in cutting his grain. Besides the economy of their use (which is no inconsiderable item in their favor) a very important consideration is, that by them the whole wheat field can be gathered in just at the proper time. The work of weeks is accomplished in a day or two, and the whole crop can be secured without exposure to unfavorable weather.

It will be seen that the manufacturers have made several important improvements since last year; and that they have connected with it a mowing machine—an invaluable article to those cultivating large tracts of grass land. We recommend those who intend to purchase this season to send in their orders at an early day, otherwise they may be disappointed in obtaining one, as we doubt not the manufacturers will dispose of all they can construct before the commencement of harvest.

From the Wisconsin Farmer.

Mr. Miller: *Sir*—I send you the description of a large plow which I had made to order last fall, for the purpose of plowing stubble ground deep on the prairie. The mould is of 12 inch steel; the lay or share, 7 inches wide, with only sufficient curve to turn the furrow handsomely; the standard is high, and the land-slide of polished steel, 9 inches wide. It will cut and turn a 18 inch furrow. Near the end of the beam I attached an axle 3 feet long, with two plank wheels—one to run in the furrow 2 1 2 feet in diameter, the one on the land 15 inches in diameter. I, attaching two yoke of oxen to it, hooked the chain from leaders back nearly to the end of the beam, and had a rope from the yoke of the beam cattle, to hold up the chain when slack. Both pair of cattle work more easily and efficiently hitched in this way. The wheels *hold* the plow and guage the depth of furrow, so that only a *driver* is needed. It is easily managed at the corners, and does the work much to my satisfaction. I think it much better to plow deep in the fall than in the spring.

I have three acres of Madder which has been growing two seasons. It has done well, and I think may be grown with profit in Wisconsin. I plant in hills four feet apart each way, on ground previously prepared by heavy manuring and deep plowing. Plant as soon as the ground is dry enough. First season keep clean from weeds, and in July throw two or three hoefulls of dirt on the crown of each hill, bend the tops outward, so as to leave the ends uncovered. In the fall, before the ground freezes, a little soil should again be thrown on the top of each hill, not to prevent it from freezing, but that it may not be dry when frozen. After the first year keep clean, and cover only in the fall.

In a long article in the last Patent Office Report, describing the method of culture, profits, &c., in Europe, it is stated that Madder which has grown three or four years, contains a greater proportion of coloring matter than that which is dug in eighteen months or two seasons' growth, which is the time usually allowed to a madder crop in Europe. This accounts for the different appearance and superior quality of American madder which is usually left to grow four years before being dug. In digging I use a plow and forks, and dry on caffolds, placed placed one above another, in a small building, by the heat of a stove. Several tons of roots may be dried at once in this way, and the upper course will dry as fast as the others. When it is dry and brittle, take it to a barn floor and thresh it with a flail till it is broken in pieces of one inch or less in length; then clean it through a fanning mill, which will separate the dust and other impurities; then take it back to the drying-house and spread it on a cloth and dry it perfectly; then take directly to grist mill and grind before it can gather dampness. It is then fit for use, and may be kept an length of time, if packed in casks or boxes,—2000 pounds per acre I think is a very safe calculation for four years growth. I have helped to dig madder that was estimated to yield 8,000 lbs. per acre. I have been acquainted with the business for 14 years, and have assisted in raising and preparing for market, many thousand pounds of madder, and believe it to be a safe and profitable business on our wester prairies.

Yours, &c., Charles T. Smith.

Delavan, Walworth Co., Wis., 1850.

Draining.

The fact is probably known to most of the readers of this paper, that in Great Britain, drainage, as a principle of correct husbandry, is regarded as ranking next in importance to rotation, and that the most important improvements effected during the last half century, have been the result, principally, of its adoption. I do not profess to be practically familiar with the subject of draining, as the locality in which my agricultural labors have generally been engrossed, is of a nature that requires the application of water, (irrigation) rather than its discharge. Notwithstanding all this, I contemplate the subject as one of vital importance, and shall therefore endeavor briefly to exhibit my views of the theory of draining.

It is probably understood by most practical farmers that there are two distinct kinds of draining. These, to the readers of Von Thaer, and of other agricultural writers who have treated upon this subject, need not be specifically described; but those who profess familiarity with works of this description, will merely observe that one relates to the draining of "boggy" land, the other to that which is rendered "wet" by position, or lack of sufficient descent to pass off the water falling upon it, during showers or storms of rain, either in the spring or fall. Great disadvantages are oftentimes experienced from both causes, and much land that otherwise would be valuable for purposes of grazing or tillage, is consequently lost.

It was not till towards the close of the last century, that the drainage of bogs was introduced to any extent in England; and with us, much as we boast of our improvements, and desirable as the object must appear to every candid and judicious mind, it has as yet been practised only on a limited scale.

In the year 1796 the British Parliament voted the sum of one thousand pounds sterling to an individual, (a Mr. Elbington) to induce him to disclose the method discovered by him of freeing low lands and boggy lands from their supernatant waters. This being regarded as a liberal offer, Mr. E. came forward in accordance with the expressed wishes of his countrymen, and freely divulged the modus operandi, and the manner of its discovery. This he did to an agent expressly appointed to receive the communication by the Board of Agriculture, by whom an octavo volume with plates, giving an account of his experiments, was was soon after published. A recent writer on this subject says:

"Dr. Elbington made his discovery by accident.—Having occasion to drain a tract of boggy land, he cut a ditch, four feet deep, to the nearest brook; but he found that this drained only a part of the surface, without affecting the origin of the difficulty. He took a crow-bar to ascertain what the under-strata was, and struck it down into the bog to the length of the bar, and upon withdrawing it the water ran off in a steady stream into his ditch. This stream continued to run till it left the surface perfectly dry. From this circumstance he formed his theory."

All bogs, it has since been ascertained, have their origin as such, in springs, either below their surface or in near contact or proximity with their sides. In order, therefore, perfecrly to drain a piece of land, it is only necessery to ascertain the locality of the supplying fountain, and to furnish for its discharge, a channel such as is required by nature; that is, one with a sufficient descent to prevent the water from standing and soaking into the soil, over or through which it is required to pass. "In all cases where the springs are so elevated as to admit of their being reached by a common ditch," says our author, "drainage is accomplished by the ditch alone." In some instances, however, we are compelled to penetrate several feet below the surface, often as many as fifteen, before striking it. A ditch of this depth, it will readily be perceived, would be a costly affair, especially if of any considerable length; but this apparently insuperable objection is easily got over by Mr. E., whose theory fully meets this and every other difficulty. "After digging the ditch, and ascertaining where the head of the spring is likely to be, he bores through the bed of the bog till he strkes the main bed of water, which, by its pressure, is immediately forced up, and runs in a continual stream until the bog is drained.

These hints are worthy of observation, particularly by those who have large tracts of wet land which require draining before they can be improved.—*Olive Branch.*

Mode of Planting Corn. We have in this section a method of planting corn which may be new to some of your readers.

After the ground is furrowed one way, one man commences furrowing in the other direction. A boy or man follows and drops the corn. Then another provided with an implement something like the common shovel plow, with a square piece of iron about the size of a common hoe screwed fast to the end of it, follows the dropper and covers the corn, by letting the iron scrape up the dirt from the bottom of the furrow, and deposit immediately on the hill. As soon as the corn is covered up, the planter is dropped for another hill, &c. This method here, in our new fields, where stumps are very thick, is a great saving of time. Two men and a bay 12 years old, with two horses, can furrow out one way, and plant eight acres in a day. This I know to be true, for I helped to plant one of my fields of eight acres in this manner last spring. The shovel-plow with a square piece of iron on the end of it, will answer the purpose.—*Albany Cultivator.*

Remarkable Preservation of a Hog.—The Easton (Md) Whig relates that a hog belonging to G. Hower, Esq., of Allen township, was accidentally buried under a stack of straw in his yard on the 13th of Oct. last. Additional straw was thrown on the stack from time, until the 24th of Dec., when the animal was found. Incredible as it may appear, the hog lived in that situation, without air, water, or anything to eat, except straw, for seventy-four days! When the hog was lost he weighed 250; when taken out of its confinement it was a mere skeleton, not weighing more than 60 or 70

pounds. At first it could no t walk, but moved by short jumps like a rabbit. When offered food it would only take a little warm milk, but gradually its appetite returned, and it promises in a short time to regain is former weight.

England vs. U. States.—The Illustrated London News speaks in the strongest terms of the growth of the U. States in population and prosperity, and say that hereafter the Anglo-Saxon race will rule the world, not from the banks of the Thames, but from those of the Potomac. The writer is of the opinion that England will rapidly decline in power and wealth, in the course of the next half century, and that the transatlantic Republic will as rapidly increase.

Plank Roads.—Upon the first page of this paper is an account of the improvements of Indiana. Those improvements, for the most part, consist in railroads, leading to and connecting the most important parts of this State with the various important points upon the Ohio river, and in other States. One cannot but feel happy, while reviewing the rapid progress which the young State of Indiana has already made in real improvement; and yet she has but commenced her career of prosperity. Her railroads already made, and in progress of construction, are, indeed, magnificent works, and are fast adding to the wealth and prosperity of her citizens. But, important as they are, and profitable as they may prove to be, yet there is another species of improvement advancing in the State that bids fair to out-rival, in substantial utility, even the path of the locomotive. We mean plank roads. Hardly a paper in the State but comes laden with the proceedings of plank road meetings—account of stock subscribed—receipts from those already constructed—and proposed new routes. All the small towns in the interior of the State are seeking connection with each other and preparing a thousand tributary branches by which to reach the great thoroughfares that lead to the best markets. The cheapness of construction, the abundance of material found in all portions of the State, the rapidity with which they may be completed, the wonderful adaptation to present wants and present means and their unparalleled profits—all these conspire to make them the favorite highways of the farmer.

We do not wonder that, under such circumstances, our people should enter with so much zeal into a project so well calculated to produce such an incalculable amount of good. We are not, under such circumstances, to suppose the intelligent yeomanry of Indiana, will indulge in any Rip Van Winkle naps They stop not to slumber upon the great road to wealth and prosperity. They know their interests too well to allow themselves to live in listless inactivity, when all around are seen the evidences of life and enterprise.

One great draw-back to the prosperity of Western and Southern farmers, and one that has prevented, in a great measure, the increase of population in particular localities, has been the difficulty of transportation and travel from one point to another. A portion of the year, the roads have been passable, even very good and pleasant, but for a few months in the winter season, nearly all travel must be suspended except what may be done on horseback. A fertile, clayey soil, destitute of rock or gravel and lying nearly level, becomes so muddy from a little rain as to be nearly impassable.—Roads in such a country are not like the dirt roads of New England where the soil is hard, and the surface uneven, and consequently soon drained of the water.—This peculiarity of the Western country to have muddy roads, has often been referred to, and still is, by the eastern emigrant when writing to his friends at home. He tells them that this is a fine, rich country, but the roads, oh, they are horrible!

Now, the plank roads, being constructed from town to town, and from neighborhood to neighborhood are removing this great objection to Western life, by giving the community a mode of intercommunication so vastly preferable to New England dirt roads that it will soon be the boast of this Western land that she has so many excellent highways, and people will crowd in upon us on this very account. Such are the wonderful changes wrought in the condition of countries and of men.

But some persons will ask, how are these roads to be sustained when the timber of the country is exhausted?

This is a fair question, and although we might be allowed many years in which to furnish an answer, yet we can remove the objection at once. By the construction of plank roads, the country becomes populated, business is multiplied and wealth increased. Should then, the time ever arrive when the forests are inadequate to the supply of timber for the repair of these highways, then the business of the country will demand railways where the plank is now placed, and there will be ample wealth to effect the change. Iron will then take the place of wood, as indeed it will in all the most important routes even before a scarcity of timber require it. Plank roads precede the locomotive and mark the transition state of a country from the ordinary road to the railway.

But the mere wealth which they create is not the greatest good that they produce. There is a moral and a social benefit continually growing out of them. They promote the cause of civilization, and unite more perfectly the interests of the people. They render man more social, and by constant intercourse with others, he extends the limits of his thoughts and opens his heart to the operations of an enlarged liberality. Prejudices are removed, and knowledge becomes the invoker of unity and peace.—*The Economist.*

Man is so great, that his greatness appears even in the consciousness of his misery. A tree does not know itself to be miserable. It is true there is misery in knowing one's self miserable; but there is greatness also. Thus all man's miseries prove his greatness. They are the miseries of a mighty potentate, of a dethroned monarch.

Passion and its Evil Effects.—Passion, when we contemplate it through the medium of imagination, is like a ray of light transmitted through a prism; we can calmly, and with undazzled eye, study its complicate nature, and analyze its variety of tints; but passion brought home to us in its reality, through our own feeling and experience, is like the same ray transmitted through a lens—blinding, burning, consumes wherever it falls.

From the American Agriculturist.

What Farmers ought to Know.

Let us see what farmers ought to know and do, to raise themselves to the character of professional men; and what almost any of them might accomplish in the long winter evenings, at a trifling cost for books, and a little more expense of hard thought and attention.

A farmer ought to understand the leading principles of chemistry. The soil he plods among at the plow tail, is not a mere inactive mass, sticking to his shoes when wet, and choking him with dust when dry. It is a vast laboratory, full of many and strange materials, always in action, warring, combining, changing, perpetually; today receiving accessions from the heavens; tomorrow, pouring them into the wide sea, to be again supplied to other lands. The earth is all but a living creature; and he whose business has been slanderously said to be but "of the earth, earthy," should surely understand the soil's nature, its elements, its likings, and its diseases.

The farmer should understand physiology. Under his care, he has the noblest forms of creation—the ox, the horse, the sheep. Can he spend a life among them, and not know how the heart beats—how the nerves thrill—where lie the muscles—what are the principles of action, and the seats of disease; how the fat grows and how the bones are formed? Can he be a breeder, who has nhver studied the peculiarities of races? Can he be any thing but an empiric, who undertakes to feed and fatten cattle, without knowing of what the food is composed, and what parts of the body require this or that element?

The farmer should have a knowledge of medicine, and of the elements of surgery; for though, in this respect, when applied to human ailments, it may prove that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing," yet many a fine animal is allowed to become dog's meat, because its owner could not distinguish between a fever and an inflammation, set a bone, nor bandage a wound.

The farmer should be a botanist. The primeval curse of mother earth was that she should bring forth thorns and thistles; and many other noxious weeds besides have since been added to her progeny. How great the amount of toil expended, and how serious the loss of crops, from such plants as Canada thistle, burdocks, turkey weed, and a host of others, let those tell who have been the sufferers. Many books have been written on such things; many plans have been given for eradicating them, but unless the farmer can distinguish them—unless he knows their character, histories, and modes of growth, how unaided does he go to his task! Besides, botany, in all its shapes, is the natural science of the countryman. How does the seed germinate? How does the tender leaf unfold itself? How is the blossom impregnated, and the fruit formed? What will injure, and what improve each plant? All these are questions which every farmer should have studied and ascertained. And can any one be content to spend a life in ignorance of the names and characters of the trees and flowers that are so gorgeously spread around him, painting his fields and woods with their thousand hues, and rendering this outward world a mass of beauty?

The farmer should be—or shall we say, should wish to be—a naturalist. No one has so many opportunities of observing and noting the habits and peculiarities of animals, birds and insects. In some cases this knowledge may be of inestimable service. It must always be a pursuit of pleasure, and cannot fail to improve the mind and sensibilities, both towards the inferior creation and towards man.

But time would fail to tell of what the farmer ought to know and understand. There is no knowledge which would not be serviceable to him. There is none which will not elevate him in the scale of intellectual beings; and what perhaps, is more important to many, there is scarcely a physical science which he will not find putting money into his pocket constantly. How many times in a life would a barometer save a whole harvest; how many blacksmiths' and carpenters' bills may be escaped by the humble knowledge of the use of tools. Now, if our farmers would but become self-instructors, and, instead of doing just as their great grandfathers did before them, they would think and learn for themselves, no profession would become more honorable, carry more weight in society, no be more ardently sought after by the active and intelligent of all classes. Instead of our young men rushing from the country to the city, the city youths would yearn to be farmers; and instead of the emulation being who should save most, the strife would be who should accumulate the most by the profoundest experiments, most successfully carried into practice. By these means farming would cease to be the mere drudgery of "dirty handed industry;" and every operation would become scientific, based on great principles, breeding new thoughts and new results, and ending in valuable acquisitions. Instead of the poet describing the farmer as one who

> "Wandered on, unknowing what he sought,
> And whistled as he went, for want of thought,"

we should have farmers themselves distinguished authors of valuable works; scientific, at all events, if not poetic. Some such great minds we already have employed in farming, but unfortunately, that is not yet the character of the class.

It should be an indispensable rule in life, to limit our expenses to our present condition, and whatever may be our expectations, to live within the compass of what we actually possess.

Rainy Days.

The Genesee Farmer gives the following advice to Farmers upon the employment of their time, when the weather will not permit them to work on their farms:

How much time is thrown away by some farmers when the weather will not permit them to work out of doors! And how well this time might be improved! There are many days and hours of wet weather in a year, in which it is impossible to do any work on the farm; and when these are lost, as they are to many farmers of my acquaintance, they amount to a considerable sum. Time is money, as my grandfather used to say,—and further, Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves.

Now, if this is good advice in money matters, it will surely apply to economy in time, to those hours and half days when the rain drives us under cover.

Well, how are these hours to be best improved? I will tell you, my brother farmers. Get yourself a set of carpenter's tools, and make a workbench, and if you can plane a board and drive a nail, you will find enough to do to occupy all your spare time.

The tools will cost but five or six dollars, such as are most necessary, and then you will be able to keep your out-buildings, fences, and many of your farming tools in good repair. If your barn or stable doors break down, mend them immediately, the first rainy day. If a board is loose, put a nail in, or replace it. If you want any plain, useful kitchen furniture, such as pine tables, benches, &c., take those occasions. But it is unnecessary to multiply the things that might be made or repaired at such times. Every farmer that looks around him (if he is not in the habit of so doing,) will find the wood work of his place lamentably out of repair.

Besides, every farmer should accustom himself to the use of tools. When he wants a small job done, it wastes as much time, often, as it is worth, to go several miles after a carpenter. I know some farmers who have not a hatchet, drawing knife, auger, plane, or work-bench, about their place. The consequence is, their jobs and repairs generally go undone, and they have nothing to do half their time in rainy werther. Is this economy? Yet such men will carry their grain five miles farther to a market, where they can get two cents more a bushel.

To-Morrow.—And what is to-morrow? A time that always is coming and never is come. It is just that part of eternity that lies beyond time. Eternity—it is a name, a phantom, a misnomer. Does it deceive us—why? Because we depend upon it—and forget that whatever we do, we must do to day. Remember it—all your labor in this world must be done to-day: there is no to-morrow.

Harrowing Wheat in Spring.

In none of the improvements in agriculture do I find farmers so slow to believe as in harrowing wheat when the ground has settled in the spring. Some ten or fifteen years ago much was said on this subject in the Genesee Farmer, showing the results of experiments, and explaining the reasons why it should operate beneficially upon the crop.

Farmers know that a hard crust forms upon ground exposed to the frosts and drying winds of March and April, and that this crust greatly retards vegetation. But the great objection is, it will pull up all the wheat to harrow it. Having practiced harrowing my wheat every spring for the last eight or ten years, and uniformly with good effect, I feel disposed to recommedd the practice to my brother farmers.

Of late years I have been in the habit of plowing in my wheat at the time of seeding, with a gang plow, leaving it in the furrow. In the spring, after the ground has become dry, the last of April or early in May, I harrow lengthwise of the furrows, then crosswise, loosening up the ground thoroughly. I should like to do this just before a rain. If the land is to be seeded with clover, I sow on the seed and harrow it in. This I think far more safe than sowing early and trusting to the heavings of the frosts and the wash of rains to cover it. Early sown clover is often killed by the droughts so common in April.

I have been amused at the earnestness with which some of my neighbors would remonstrate with me for harrowing my wheat. 'Such a fine piece of wheat,' say they, 'to be spoiled in that manner! He ought to be sent to the mad-house!'

And afterwards, when the crop showed for itself it was not ruined, 'O, it was such a good piece of land, it will produce a good crop in spite of your experiments.' A field of wheat looks bad while under the process of harrowing, as it is prostrated and partly covered with earth; but after a shower, it starts up fresh and vigorous, like a field of corn refreshed by a shower after being hoed. I have often examined as to the amount pulled up, and do not believe it will average a bushel upon ten acres. Farmers, try it; and be not frightened by the appearance. I never yet heard of a field injured by it.—[Myron Adams, in Genesee Farmer.

Agriculture.—It is an innocent pursuit, that can do injury to no one. It invades no man's just rights, and prejudices no man's safety, health, peace, or reasonable enjoyment. It is a beneficial employment, for whoever cultivates the earth, and covers it with rich and golden crops, renders it more beautiful; and whoever causes the earth to yield its fruits, increases the means of human comfort and subsistence.

Science for the Farmer.

It helps him to defend his vegetable productions against enemies in the animal world. It teaches him to study these enemies, and find out what they are—how and where they live—their laws of reproduction and nutrition—that he may discover their vulnerable points, and attack them to the best advantage. It sometimes happens that these little fellows are really formidable foes. There may be enough of them in number to make amends for their being vrey diminutive ih person. They may come thick enough to destroy all your vines before they are a week old—your corn before it is fairly above ground—your wheat before it can fill—your plums before they are one-quarter grown. Now there is no way in which man can get the mastery over so n any myriads of enemies, except he avails himself of his superiority on the score of mind. He must study, not only the tactics of his enemy, but their whole character and all their habits. Thus he may discover some assailable point of attack, or at least some means of defence.

Science has suggested modes of improving the quality of seeds and the character of varieties.

Seeds are improved by judicious, tnough not always by the highest cultivation, and by care to prevent adulteration by the intermingling of varities, while in the flower. On these points it were superfluous to show that agriculture is greatly indebted to science. If it be true, as has lately been suggested, that some species of mineral manures stimulate the growth and perfection of seeds, while other species determine their quickening energy to the stalk, or to other portions of the plant, the fact will afford yet another demonstration of the value of science as applied to agriculture.

A Flower Garden.

Let us now take a view of the flower garden, and consider the numerous and varied beauties which are c llected in so small a space. The art and industry of man have made it the receptacle of the most beautiful flowers. But what would it have been without care and industry? A wild desert, full of thorns and weeds. And such would be the condition of our youth if their education were neglected, and their minds remained uncultivated. But when children early receive instruction, and imbibe good principles, they are like sweet blossoms, delightful in beauty and productive in fruit that will soon benefit society.

Observe the night violet or julian flower, which towards evening perfumes the air with its fragrance, in which it excells all other flowers; but it has no beauty, and has scarcely even the resemblance of a flower: it is small and of a grey color, approaching towards green, so as to be scarcely distinguished from the leaves: humble and modest, it scents the whole garden, though it is not perceived in the multitude; and it is almost incredible that a flower of such insignificant appearance should give out an odor so exquisitely sweet. It may be said to resemble a person who is not handsome, but whose want of beauty nature has more than compensated by a ready wit and an enlarged mind. The pious man often does good in silence and privacy, and the sweet incense of his good works ascends all around him; and when we become acquainted with this amiable character we perhaps find him neither distinguished by elegance of person nor elevation of rank.

The carnation combines both beauty and fragrance, and is one of the most perfect of flowers; in the richness and beauty of its colors it approaches the tulip, and surpasses it in the number of its leaves and the elegance of its form. This flower is the emblem of a person in whom sense and beauty are united, and who has the happiness to conciliate the love aud respect of his fellow-creatures.

Let us next observe the rose: its color, form, and perfume, all charm us; but its beauty soon fades, and the attractions which distinguish it from other flowers soon cease. This is a useful lesson to those who pride themselves upon beauty only; from the short lived honors of the rose, let them take warning how frail and perishing are the charms of person and the elegance of form. "All is vanity; all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the field; the grass withereth, and the flower fadeth away." The lillies and roses of a beautiful face fade like the flowers of the garden, and death leaves no trace of them behind. Let us then be wise enough to seek our happiness and repose from more certain and durable sources. Wisdom, virtue, and the blessings of Christianity never fade, and are never exhausted. They are the eternal fountains of joy whose waters shall refresh when every other source is dried up.

What man is unhappy because he is not a king, except a king dethroned? Was Paulus Emilus considered miserable that he was no longer consul? On the contrary every one thought that he was happy in having it over, for it was not his condition to be always consul. But Perseus, whose permanent state should have been royalty was considered so wretched in being no longer a king, that men wondered how he could endure life. Who complains of having only one mouth? Who would not complain of having but one eye? No man mourns that he has not three eyes, yet each would sorrow deeply if he had but one.

Wash warts with a strong solution of potash, and let it dry on. Do this two or three times, and the warts will disappear.

The Culture of Indigo.

The indigo plant, in common with the sugar cane, cotton and tobacco plants, is indigenous to America, yet, while the latter three products have become important staples in the commerce of our country, the former has ceased to attract the attention of our planters, and is now entirely unknown among the productions of the South. An exchange states that in the year 1748, South Carolina exported to Great Britian 200,000 pounds of indigo, and that in 1787, it had become one of the staples of that State. At the present time the trade of Great Britain in indigo is of considerable importance.—She imports it principally from Bengal and the neighboring provinces, and retaining whatever quantity is needful for home consumption, exports the balance.—During the six months ending the 5th of July 1848, her imports in this product amounted to 20,535 cwt., and for the same period ending 1849, to 30,249 cwt. The home consumption averages about 3,000,000 lbs. a year France consumes about the same quantity. The United States use it to a large extent, but the average yearly demand we are unable to give, not having the necessary statistics in our possession.

An article of so much consequence and so extensively used as this appears to be, and at the same time derived from a plant indigenous to our own soil, deserves some notice, and the more especially seeing that its production here has entirely ceased. Why is it that our planters cannot find it profitable to cultivate the indigo plant in the South? It is said that the cheap labor of India has driven them from the market. But cannot the planter compete with the labor of India in the production of indigo as well as in sugar, cotton and tobacco? We are not sufficiently well acquanted with all the facts relative to the cost of producing this article in the Southern States, nor the quality of the same, but it seems to us, that, if in these respects we are on the same footing with those countries which produce it so largely now, we might not only raise enough for our own use, but as an article of export also. In producing sugar, cotton and tobacco, we are eminently successful, why not then, succeed in the production of indigo? As our manufactures increase, our demand for this article will also become augmented. It appears that in some respects the manufacture of indigo is more feasible than the manufacture of sugar. Mr. McCulloch states that the fixed capital required in its manufacture "consists of a few vats of common masonry for steeping the plant, and precipitating the coloring matter—a boiling and drying house—and a dwelling house for the planter. These for a factory of 10 pair of vats, capable of producing, at an average, 12,500 pounds of indigo, worth on the spot £2,500, will not cost (in India) above £1,500 sterling. The buildings and machinery necessary to produce an equal value in sugar and rum would probably cost about £4,000" He further adds that this is a reason why the British planters in India have never engaged in the manufacture of sugar. If such are the causes alone that have induced the British planter to resort to the production of indigo would it not be well for the Southern planter to test the matter thoroughly, and ascertain whether or not we may become extensive and successful producers of the same? It may be that there are serious obsticles in the way of its production of which we have not made mention.—*Economist.*

Good Tools.—I think that the old adage, that "He must be indeed a good workman who can afford to work with poor tools," is one which embodies an important truth. If we farmers employ a machanic—a mason or house carpenter, for instance—to execute a "job of work," we of course expect that he will come provided with proper and efficient tools. Should he come with but half the implements required for the proper and successful performance of the work confided to his hands, we should not hesitate to demur, and should be perfectly justified in dismissing him and procuring another in his stead. But how is it on our farms? Are we always as jealous and watchful of our interests there? How often, indeed, is it, that our helps are required to plow, to mow, to reap and hoe, with implements which are not only "out of fashion," but too clumsy and ill adapted to the work required to be performed, to be used any where, except in places and under circumstances where those better cannot be obtained. Many of the old fashioned implements are still in use on our farms—particularly plows, dung-forks, and hoes; and these unwieldly and almost *unwieldable* abortions, hired men and boys are frequently required to perform as much work, and to finish it off as neatly, as though they were provided with the most proper tools. Farmers generally are too remiss on this point. They are too apt to look at the *cost of the tools* not at the useless expenditure of strength on the part of operative in wielding them—*that* is no business of theirs, they think, but this is a fallacy. I have seen men in the hay field, sweating and, like fat John Falstaff,

"Larding the lean earth,"

exerting to the utmost every muscle, to satisfy the expectations and realize the demands, often exorbiant, of a parsimonious employer, who, with good tools, would have performed twice the amount of labor in the same period, without exhaustion and with comparative ease. The work also would have been done effectually, which is a matter of prime importance, though, by many too often neglected and over-looked. The present abundance and cheapness of farming tools, of good quality, render it easy for every one who is so disposed, to obviate this great and long existing evil.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Man is but the weakest reed in nature; but he is a reed that thinks. It does not need the universe to crush him; a breath of air, a drop of water is enough to kill him. But even if the material universe should overwhelm him, man would be more noble than that which destroys him; because he knows that he dies, while the universe shows nothing of its advantage over him.

HORTICULTURE.

St. Louis Horticultural Society.

The regular monthly meeting of this Society was held on Saturday, March 2, Thos. Allen, Esq., President, in the chair.

Members present—Messrs. Allen, Bissell, Sigerson, Salisbury, Haren, Robinson, Turner, Reihl, Martin, Glasgow, Shaw, Meline, and Abbott.

New members elected.—Thos J. Meir, proposed by J. Sigerson; Henry Shaw, proposed by E. Haren.

Reports of Committees.—Mr. Haren, from the Committee on the Library, reported a catalogue of the books in the Society's Library, which was ordered to be published with the proceedings of the Society.

Exhibitions for 1850.—The Society then took up the subject of exhibitions for 1850, when, on motion, it was

Voted, That the Spring Exhibition be held on Wednesday, May 22d.

Voted, That the Fall Exhibition be held on Wednesday, August 21st.

The following list of premiums for 1850 was adopted:

FLOWERS.

For the largest assortment of best specimens of Green House Plants, $10 at each exhibition,	$20
Second best do. $5 each exhibition,	10
Best display of Hardy roses, through the season,	2
Best display of monthly roses, through the season,	2
Best display of Annuals, through the season,	2
Best display of Perennials through the season,	2
Best collection of Dahlias, at the Fall Exhibition,	3
Best do do do do	2
Best Parlor Bouquet, $2 at each exhibition,	4
Best Hand Bouquet, $1 at each exhibition,	2
Best ornamental design of Cut Flowers, $2 at each exhibition,	4

FRUITS.

Best four bunches Foreign Grapes, at Fall Exhibition,	3
Best collection of Native Grapes, not less than four bunches of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	3
Best collection of Apples, six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	5
Best display of Summer Apples, at monthly meetings,	3
Best display of Winter Apples, at monthly meetings,	3
Best collection of Peaches, at Fall Exhibition,	5
Best display of Summer do at monthly meetings,	3
Best collection of Pears, not less than six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	3
Best collection of Quinces, not less than six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	2
Best quart of Currants,	2
Best display of Strawberries, one quart of each variety,	2
Best single quart of Strawberries,	1
Best pint of Cherries,	2
Best quart of Plums,	2
Best pint of Gooseberries,	2
Best quart of Raspberries,	2
Best quart of Apricots,	2
Best quart of Nectarines,	1

WINE.

Best bottle,	2

VEGETABLES.

Best six stalks of Cellery, Fall exhibition,	1
Best six stalks Rhubarb, Spring do	1
Best four bueches Asparagus, do do	1
Best two heads Cabbage, Fall do	1
Best 4 heads Cauliflower, do do	1
Best half peck Tomatoes, do do	1
Best half peck Onions, do do	1
Best 4 Egg Plants, do do	1
Best 4 Cucumbers, Spring do	1
Best 6 heads Lettuce, do do	1
Best 6 Beets, Fall do	1
Best 6 Parsnips, do do	1
Best 6 Turnips, do do	1
Best half peck Potatoes, do do	1
Best half peck sweet do do do	1
Best collection of Herbs, do do	1
Best dish of Lima Beans, do do	1
Best dish of Snap do do do	1
Best dish of Okra, do do	1
Best 6 Carrots, do do	1
Any new variety of Vegetable, worthy of cultivation, and an addition to the table,	1

Voted, That the rules adopted last year for the management of the exhibitions, be adopted the present year, with the exception of the sixth.

Articles Exhibited.—By the President, from Major R. B. Lee, a collection of seeds and esculents grown in Oregon, viz: Red Wheat Nos. 1 and 2, and White do., from Oregon City Mills, the growth of 1849; Choice Red Round Radish, Double Cress, Savoy Cabbage, Beans (mixed,) Lettuce (do,) Cabbage Lettuce, from Fort Vancouver, Oregon, Savoy Cabbage, Perennial Onion, Carrot, Parsnip, Mediterranean Wheat, Common White Wheat, Mountain Sprout or Club Foot Wheat, from Puget Sound; Lady Finger Potato, Work do, Ash Leaf Kidney do, Spanish do, from Ilkumun, Oregon.

By Mr. Haren, Bottle of Catawba wine, 1849.

By Mr. Sol. Suffigier, Highland, Ill., two bottles of Catawba wine, of the vintages of 1847 and 1848, and two bottles Isabella, of the vintages of 1847 and 1848.

By Mr. Turner, one bottle Catawba, 1849.

By Mr. N. Reihl, Double headed Jonquills.

Voted, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Major Lee for his very valuable donation of the productions of Oregon.

Voted, That the wheat presented by Major Lee be distributed under the direction of the President.

Voted, That the garden seeds and potatoes presented by Major Lee, be distributed among the members present.

Voted, That 100 copies of the list of premiums b published for the use of members.

Adjourned, E. ABBOTT, Secretary.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS

BELONGING TO THE ST. LOUIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A—American Poulterer's Companion,	1	vol.
Allen's Domestic Animals,	1	"
B—Buist's American Flower Garden Directory,	1	"
" on the Rose,	1	"
Bridgman's Florist's Guide,	1	"
Burger's Lehrburh der Landerirthshaft,	2	"
C—Cottage Residences by Downing,	1	"
Chaptal's Agricultural Chemistry,	1	"
D—Dana's Muck Manual,	1	"
Darlington's Useful Plants and Trees,	1	"
Don's Gardening Dictionary,	4	"
Downing's Landscape Gardening,	1	"
F—Fruits and Fruit Trees, by Downing,	1	"
Fruits of America, by Hovey,	6	"
G—Gray's Botany of the United States,	1	"
" Botanical Text Book,	1	"
H—Hoar on the Grape vine,	1	"
Horticultur st,	3	"
I—Ive's New England Fruit Book,	1	"
K—Kitchen Garden,	1	"
L—Lindley's Theory of Horticulture,	1	"
Liebig's Agricultural Chemtstry,	1	"
Landscape Gardening, by Downing,	1	"
Loudon's Encyclopedia of Gardening,	1	"
Leibitzer's Gartenban,	1	"
Ladies' Companion to Flower Garden,	1	"
Loudon's, Mrs. Perennials,	2	"
" Annuals,	1	"
M—McIntosh's Flower Garden,	1	"
" Orchard,	1	"
McMahon's Gardening,	1	"
P—Parsons on the Rose,	1	"
Principles of Gardening by Johnson,	1	"
S—Smith's Grammar of Botany,	1	"
T—Thomas's Fruit Culturist,	1	"
V—Vine, Treatise on,	1	"

For the Valley Farmer.

Water Melons—How to raise large ones.

It is obvious that every one knows that the better condition the ground is in the better any kind of seed will vegetate. Ground that is prepared for mellon seed should be plowed very deep and made very loose. The seed should be planted at least ten feet apart, and where they are planted the ground should be chopped up until very light and then left level with the surface. After the vines has obtained to the length of seven or eight feet take a hoe full of loose dirt and lay on the vine and pat lightly within three inches of the end of butt, the dirt will cause the vine to take root and give the same nutriment as the main root. It may be continued on throughout the season, and no one knows the enormous size the mellons will grow, except those who have tried the plan. Try it, who will, and they will be paid for the little extra trouble.

It must be remembered that the ground must be plowed deep and kept clean, for it is unquestionably true that the roots of Water Melon vines runs as far as the vine does itself. To prove this assertion, let the experimentor when his vines has covered the ground, scratch a hole any where in his patch and he will find numerous running vines not quite as large as the smallest sized netting needles, to test the truth gather some of them rub them in his fingers and smell of them.—Musk Mellons and Pumpkins may be raised as the above.

T. B.

Cress—This small salad herb is used with lettuce, or as a garnish for side dishes. It is sometimes called *pepper-grass*. Is a hardy annual, place of nativity unknown. The leaves are used while young. "The varieties are the *plain leaved, curled leaved,* and *broad leaved.* The method of cultivation is the same as is used for parsley. To have a constant supply in perfection, very frequent sowing should be made; during hot, dry weather, it should be sown in the shade of trees, or protected by brush, &c., from the direct rays of the sun."—*Rural Register.* For Indian cress, see Nasturtium.

Cress, (Water)—*Nasturtium officinalis.*

Varieties.—Small broad leaved, hardiest; large brown leaved, best for deep water; green leaved, easiest cultivated. London Hort. Soc. Trans.

The latter named sort is more usully cultivated in this country, and is in high demand for the New York market.

Water cresses are used as a breakfast salad, are pungent in taste, and very agreeable. "The most suitable description of water is a clear stream, not more than an inch and a half deep, running over sand or gravel; the least favorable, deep, still water, or a muddy bottom. It is highly advantageous to make the plantations in newly-risen spring water, as the plants do not only thrive better in it, but, in consequence of its being rarely frozen, they generally continue in vegetation, and in a good state for gathering, through the whole winter season.—The plants are disposed in rows parallel with the course of the stream, about eighteen inches apart.

When these plants begin to grow in water one inch and a half deep, they soon check the currant so as to raise the water to the height of three inches above the plants, which is considered the most favorable circumstance in which they can be placed. It is absolutely necessary to have a constant current, as where there is any obstruction to the stream, the plants cease to thrive. After they have been cut about three times, they begin to stock, and then the oftener they are cut the better."—*Loudon's Encyclopædia of Gardening.*

The Hollanders in Iowa.—A letter from Rev. H P. Scholte, pastor of the colony of Hollanders, settled at a place which they call Pella in Iowa informs us that the colony had an English school during the entire year, and that their children are all becoming acquainted with the English language. The name of their town is after a place east of the Jordan in the Holy Land to which the Christians fled from Jerusalem when it was

From the Family Visitor.

Budded Peaches.

Dear Sir: I am trying to cultivate the budded peach. I have near one hundred trees, embracing some twelve varieties, six years old, there is not one of them—except the American Heath Cling, last year—that has borne anything more than a few specimens, while the common fruit among and around them, has borne heavy crops for the last three years. I mentioned the thing to my neighbor, James Cherry, a Gardener in the vicinity of Zanesville, who has a lot of budded trees about the same age. He informs me that his budded varieties did not yield him three per cent. on the money he paid for them while his common kinds were loaded with fruit.

By way of eliciting information on the subject, I inquired of the Ohio State Fruit Convention at Columbus, 5th of December last, and the thing became quite interesting to the members. Out of some ten or more who spoke, they all, with one exception, had a similar experience to our own, with regard to the bearing qualities of the budded peach, several of whom were from the Miami Valley. One stated that the common fruit, notwithstanding its inferior price in comparison with the budded, was, nevertheless, more profitable for cultivation.

This want of productiveness is probably owing to one of three causes, or to their combined influences in whole or in part.

1. Budding may have a tendency to depreciate the bearing qualities of the peach. Or,

2. The selections may have been made, originally, in general, from such trees as bore shily, and gave large specimens, simply because there were few on them; Or,

3. The trees may want age, and will probably do better, in the bearing way, when the vigor of their growth shall have been checked. Trees of a rapid growth, of any kind, bear shily.

Who can give us any light upon this subject? Can Dr. Kirtland, of Cleveland, from his considerable experience with this fruit, teach us the truth in the premises? We should like to hear from him on this subject, through the columns of his most excellent paper, "The Family Visitor," which is just making its debut to the public; or from any one else whose practical knowledge enables him to understand the subject.

The cultivation of the peach has been so recently commenced throughout the State, in general, that time has not been sufficient, except, probably, in few cases, to test its final success. Those who have given the subject a fair trial, would confer a favor on the public by giving the result of their experience. If the budded peach will not produce, it is useless to attempt its cultivation. If there are some varieties that are productive, and others not, correct information on this matter would be of great utility to the public.—C. A. Springer, in *Guernsey Times.*

It would afford us pleasure to furnish our friend, the Rev. Mr. S., any light we possess, on the subject to which he refers.

The result of extensive experience has convinced us of the correctness of his *first* conclusion, to-wit:

"That budding may have a tendency to depreciate the bearing qualities of the peach." In 1824, we procured from Burlington, fifty varieties of New Jersey peach trees. They were all budded, and were very healthy.—The same season we obtained from the vicinity of Middletown, Ct., a quart or two of peach stones, produced from trees not budded, and said, by the raiser, to be of a good kind.

From these sources we were well stocked with a variety of peach trees in the course of a few years. They were set out on a dry loam, resting on a stiff and impervious hard pan of iron ore, gravel and clay, in Trumbull county. Those raised from the stones were permitted to remain in their natural state.

At the end of 18 years, the budded trees had produced abundant crops four seasons, and limited supplies perhaps as many more. The natural stocks were equally productive in those seasons, and on several others bore good crops, while the budded ones failed. They generally proved of valuable kinds. Impressed with the results of this trial, we commenced another on removing to our present location on the Lake shore, eight years since.

From a basket of Morris' Red Rareripes, presented us by J. W. Allen, Esq., of this city, we raised about 30 trees, and have cultivated them with proper attention, but have not changed them by budding. During the last three years they have yielded heavy crops, and during the two prior years all my peach trees did the same, but the last season was unpropitous for peaches, and most of my budded kinds produced very small quantities—still, I had the satisfaction to see the natural trees bending under their loads of fruit.

Four-fifths of the seedlings bore fruit resembling the parent kind. A few sported in variety, and one run back into a worthless woolly Fall peach.

We believe it a better way to stock our grounds principally with natural kinds selecting, however, a few of the best budded varieties for their superior qualities.—In conformity to this opinion, we are annually raising and cultivating a few young trees, to keep our stock good, and we employ only the stones of the best kinds. If, after testing seedlings, they prove inferior, we head them back in the spring, and change them, by budding, in August.

Another cause has frequently impaired the fruitfulness of our peach trees, and it acts more forcibly, but not exclusively, on the budded kinds. We allude to moisture, and a cold condition of the soil about their roots.

A difference of location of only 15 feet is sufficient to render one tree fruitful, and another barren, on our present location, where the peach tree flourishes and is productive, almost without care, if kept aloof from wet and cold soil.

If we were to set out this tree on clay land, we would seek the highest elevation and select a slope or a side hill, so that the roots might be secure from the impression of superfluous moisture by means of a brick, tile or stone under-drain. We would even go so far as to make an excavation four feet deep, and six in diameter, and would form a free outlet by under-drains from the bottom of each tree. One tree, correctly managed, will be more profitible than a dozen treated in the ordinary modes of cultivation.

The monks of Great Britian, in earlier ages, seem to have understood what Horticulturists of this day only slightly comprehend, that fruit trees require that their roots should expand freely in a rich, very deep, and suitably dry soil.

The prolificness of the peach tree as well as every variety of fruit, will be essentially influenced by the

supplies of specific aliment which it receives from the soil.

A more accurate analysis of the ash of this tree is needed than any with which we are conversant. By some trials made upon it by B. KIRTLAND, of Mahoning County, we are led to suppose that it adounds, in a large per cent. of soda.

Repeated trials of the application of common salt, as a dressing, has satisfied us of its value, to invigorate and improve this tree. It is probable if unslacked lime was mixed with brine, in proportions just sufficient to slack the former, the new compound would make a valuable dressing.

None of these means will render the peach tree secure against injuries from late spring frosts—though the more healthy and hardy it is, the better it will resist their impressions. Improvements and cultivation, are, in part, effecting a remedy, by diminishing the humidity of the climate, and rendering it less severe than in former years.

In recapitulation we would say—

1st. Raise your peach trees from stones of good varieties, and cultivate them, without budding, till their qualities have been tested.

2d. Dig large and deep holes in which to transplan them, and guard against accumulations of water about their roots by under-drains.

3d. Supply them with all the elements necessary for their health and growth.

CULTIVATION OF MELONS.—There are many varieties of the melon, of which the best may be considered as Skillman's Netted, the green-fleshed Citron, the green-fleshed Nutmeg, the Large Yellow Cantaloup, the green-fleshed Persian, the Musk-scented, and the Pine- apple. Of these, the first three are generally cultivated throughout the United States, and abound in our markets for at least three months in the year.

The soil best suited for the melon, in open culture, is a light, sandy loam, similar to that of the southerly end of Long Island, and the adjacent shores of New Jersey. The ground should be plowed or spaded, from 12 to 18 inches deep, and well pulverized with a harrow or rake. The proper season for sowing is at the time the peach tree is in bloom; for, if planted earlier, there would be fear of their being cut off by frosts. The seeds may be sown in broad hills, eighteen inches in diameter, and five feet apart from centre to centre, each supplied with a shovel full of well rotted stable or barn-yard manure. In order to guard against accidents, at least 20 seeds should be scattered in a hill, which should be covered with finely pulverized earth at about the same depth as in planting Indian corn. Soon after the plants are up, and begin to show their second leaves, they may be weeded with a hoe, and a portion of them thinned out, still leaving enough to guard against accidents or the depredations of worms. In the course of the summer, before the vines begin to spread, two furrows should be run between the rows, with a cultivator or plow, turning the earth directly *from* the plants, which should again be freed of weeds. A few weeks after a second plowing should take place, turning the earth *towards* the vines, when a broad, flat hill should be formed, slightly hollowing in the middle, so as to receive and retain the water supplied by irrigation or from the fall of rains. After this, no further attention will be required, except in keeping down the weeds, and in guarding against worms.—*American Agriculturist.*

Fruit and Fruit Trees.

At a late meeting of the Massachusetts Legislative Agricultural Society the subject of Fruit and Fruit Trees was made the topic of discusion. We copy from the *Boston Cultivator* the following sketch:

Major Wheeler was called up upon the subject of the evening. He chose the species of the apple-tree to remark upon. He would take apple trees from a nursery as large as his arm. There are many trees in nurseries that are not worth setting out. In setting out, the hole should be six feet over, and two feet deep; leave the tree as much as possible in its natural state. The enemies of the apple tree are the canker worm and the caterpillar. They may be killed with whale oil soap, using it two or three times. He further expressed great confidence in reference to washing trees with lye, to kill certain insects—the borer, etc. The lye should be made by applying two pounds of potash, to a pail full of water. Caterpillers may be easily killed by using Pickering's brush between 12 and 2 o'clock of the day, when all are in their nests.

Captain Pierce, of West Cambridge, said he could not kill peach tree borers either with lye or hot water, in every instance, but was generally successful with these means. There is still great room for improvement amongst us in the cultivation of trees. Of his apple orchard, set out 1836, half of the trees bore in one year, and the remainder the next. He obtained 24 barrels, last year, from four trees. These were the Baldwin and Porter apples. He sold his apples for $5 and $4,50 a barrel at Faneul Hall Market. Grass or grain, should not be raised upon the same soil where apple trees grow. What you gain in grass and grain, you lose in apples.—He was not in favor of a strong wash for trees, as it was contrary to nature. He keeps his trees so smooth that insects cannot climb them. His apple trees are twelve paces, or 36 feet apart. The trunks of apple trees, need to be protected from extreme heat and cold, by low branches. Cattle should not be allowed to go into orchards at all.

He sold a barrel of Baldwin apples to a gentleman who sent them to his daughter in Europe. She wrote back, that they were opened in perfect order, and that such apples worth there 12 1-2 cents each. His income, from eight acres of apple and peach trees the past year was $997, and some cents.

Mr. French said, he set out his first orchard in grass land. It did quite well by care. He would not recommend to plant trees in grass land. He would plow deep. Roots extend down 34 inches or more. He would just cover the roots and let them proceed down as low as they please; he would sooner turn his cattle into his garden, than into his orchard; and this is

the result of experience since 1818, when he commenced the busines of horticulture. As to the kinds of fruit to be raised, if he could have but one kind of apples he would choose the Greening; so of pears, the Bartlett.

At a subsequent meeting, Captain George Pierce, of West Cambridge, said that the peach-tree borer would stand scalding-hot water, and he thought that they would stand lye also; but by making a basin around the tree, and pouring in six quarts of hot water, he generally destroyed them. He advocated the high culture of fruit trees, and raising no crops among them after they were large.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Traveling Agents.

The following persons have been commissioned as Agents for the Valley Farmer:

G. H. WILSON, for Missouri, northern Illinois, and Iowa.

JOHN F. DUNNICA, for Missouri;

A. R. HAYNES, for Northern Illinois and Iowa;

J. W. BARLOW, of Burlington, will also act as General Agent for Iowa and vicinity.

City Agent.—Mr. Sidney Smith is authorized to receive subscriptions for the Valley Farmer and receipt for the same.

☞Some of our subscribers are still in arrears for the first volume. We hope they will not delay to remit the sums due. All arrearages should be sent to our address [E. Abbott,] and may be remitted by mail at our risk.

The Agricultural Bureau.—We commend to the thoughtful consideration of all our readers, Dr. Kennicott's communication in the present number of the Valley Farmer. It is unnecessary for us either to endorse or disclaim the views which he advances with so much earnestness and ability. He needs no such aid; and our pages are open to any man who wishes to take the opposite side. Whether such a department would accomplish much real good for the agricultural community is a debateable question. We believe that it might if properly managed, and made subservient to a thorough State and County voluntary organization throughout the Union. Without this, it would dwindle into an insignificant sinecure to a few especial favorites. We want, instead of, or in addition to an Agricultural Bureau at Washington city, a department of that kind in every State government, acting in conjunction with the State Agricultural Society, and through it encouraging and establishing County Societies, and developing the resources and peculiarities of the State; and organizing and controlling an Agricultural School in every Congressional district, if not in every county.

But we may in this place be permitted to say a few words of Dr. Kennicott himself. One of the earlier settlers in Northern Illinois, he has done very much to promote the cause of horticultural and agricultural science in the West. His pen has never been idle, as the pages of all our agricultural journals give abundant evidence. As a pomologist, he has, perhaps, no superior in the country, and his enthusiastic support of whatever promises to elevate the tiller of the soil to his just position, entitles his opinions and suggestion to serious consideration. The North American Pomological Convention did no more than justice to his character and acquirements, when they appointed him to preside over its deliberations. His report to that body, as chairman of the Illinois committee, is decidedly the best as well as most complete document in their published proceedings.

The Working Farmer.—We have received the first number of the second volume of Prof. Mapes's paper, published under this title in New York city. It is enlarged to double its former size, and the price fixed at one dollar per annum. Among other improvements we see that its publishers have discarded the heathenish looking figures which formerly stood at the head of the work. The Working Farmer is probably a more practically scientific publication than any other paper now published, and as such deserves to be read by every man who is or would be an intelligent farmer. Last year the publishers sent us the first number, we noticed it, and sent our paper the Valley Farmer, in exchange through the season, but we saw no more of it until the commencement of the second volume. Will they treat us the same way this year?

☞We were treated in the same way by the N. York Independent and the Horticulturist.

The Granite Farmer.—A weekly agricultural paper published at Manchester, N. H., by J. O. Adams, under the patronage of the N. H. State Agricultural Society. This paper is edited by Dr. Crosby, and we do not doubt will do good service in the cause of agriculture. Whether it is designed to take the place of Gov. Hill's Monthly Visitor, we can not say, not having seen the Gov.'s paper for a twelvemonth.

Castor Oil Plant.—Will our friends of the Valley Farmer furnish such information as they possess, or can procure, in regard to the culture of this crop in Missouri or southern Illinois?—*Ohio Cultivator.*

As to cultnre, it is planted in rows and tended much like a crop of corn; and we believe will do very well wherever corn will grow. In the July number, of the first volume of the Farmer we published a lengthy article upon the cultivation of the Castor Bean, and the prospects of its being in very much demand. Further information upon the subject, we think, warrants us in saying that there will be enough beans raised in Illinois the present season to supply all the United States, and leave a large surplus over for next year. There is a scarcity here just now, caused by the destruction of nearly all of last year's crop, in the conflagration that consumed Mr. Blow's factories in the early part of the winter. The fact is, the various kinds of purgative and cathartic medicines which have been thrown into market have had a very sensible effect upon the demand for castor oil; and unless some inventive genius can

discover some other purpose to which it can be applied, besides its medicinal one, we think there is no prospect of any very extensive demand for it in the future.

Guano Compared with Ashes.—Stephen H. Smith states to a committee of the Rhode Island Society for the encouragement of Domestic Industry, that on one acre of sandy loam, which without manure would have produced twenty bushels of corn, he sowed broadcast on the furrow, after deep plowing, five hundred pounds of best guano, well pulverised and mixed with four times its bulk of dry loam. After harrowing, it was planted with corn. The product was fifty bushels. In 1845, he seeded down half an acre of ground, a sandy loam, with eight quarts of millet, ten quarts of clover, one peck of herds grass, and one peck of red top seed. his lot was dressed with three hundred and fifty pound of guano, worth $9, applied as above described. On an adjoining half acre he put the same kind of seeds in like quantity. Instead of guano he applied sixty bushels of unleached ashes, worth $8. The crop of millet was perceptibly best where the guano was used, and about ten days the earliest. The crap of grass in 1846 was one-fourth the largest where ashes were used. In 1847 the clover had nearly disappeared where the guano was applied, but remained well stocked where the ashes were put. The first and second crops this year were decidedly in favor of the ashes.

Native Wine.—We have, from time to time tasted samples of wine manufactured in this vicinity—enough to give assurance that the manufacture of wine can be successfully prosecuted in this region. At the meeting of the Horticultural Society the present month, there were exhibited Isabella and Catawba wines of the vintages of 1847, 1848, and 1849, made by Mr. Haren and Mr. Turner, of this city, and by Mr. Suffigier, of Highland, Ill. All of these were equal to the best imported light wines, and with the advantage of age will acquire a richness and smoothness seldom equalled.

Banner Wheat.—"I would like to be informed through the Valley Farmer if you or any of your correspondents know any thing of the success of the Banner wheat in our Prairie country, or whether it has been tried. If it has been cultivated I would like to know by whom, and with what success."—J. M., Lee county, Iowa.

Can any of our readers give any information?

Moore's Rural New Yorker.—We received about New year, the first number of this paper, with "please exchange" on its cover. We have sent on the Farmer regularly, since then, but have seen nothing of the Rural New Yorker. We hope friend Moore does not intend to come the N. Y. Independent game over us.

Homœopathy.—We beg leave to refer such of our readers as are interested in the Homœopathic system to the card of Dr. T. J. Vastine, in our advertising department. Dr. V. is a regular graduate of Jefferson Medical College, and after an unusually successful practice of some sixteen or eighten years, on the old system, has joined the Hahnemann school, and during the past winter has attended the lectures of the Homœopathic Medical College, in Philadelphia. He brings with him strong testimonials from men of the highest respectability in Pennsylvania, both as to his standing as a physician, and his character as a citizen. From what personal acquaintance we have had the pleasure of forming with him, we can cheerfully recommend him as a careful, skillful, and attentive physician. His supply of books, medicines, &c., is very complete, embracing every thing new and valuable in that department of science.

Hogs killed in the West, 1849-50.—Mr. L. Caldwell has published in the Lafayette, Indiana, Courer, a statement of the number of hogs slaughtered in the West during the past season, compiled from information derived with great care from the most reliable sources. The aggregates are as follows:

RECAPITULATION.

Ohio,	523,775
Kentucky,	198,000
Indiana,	428,575
Illinois,	268,100
Mississippi river,	252,900
Missouri river, estimate,	75,000
Cumberland river, estimate,	100,000
Other small points overlooked,	25,000
Grand total,	1,871,330

The amount for the Mississippi river is made up as follows:

Chester,	1,000	Bloomington,	3,500
Sparta, back,	1,500	Oquawka,	1,700
St. Louis (10,000 steamed early in the fall)	124,000	Monmouth,	1,200
		Kuthsburgh,	4,000
Hannibal,	24,500	Rock Island,	3,000
Quincy,	29,000	New Boston,	1,000
Warraw,	3,000	Hampton,	3,000
Keokuk,	19,000	Wapolis,	5,000
Burlington,	29,000		
Total,			252,900

Mr. Caldwell says he had received no returns from the Missouri and Cumberland rivers. "Nearly all the pork cut on those rivers is made into Bacon, and from the Missouri a large proportion will be required by the California emigrants. He also thinks, "from the many public improvements progressing in the Western States, and the consequent demand for that consumption, that a large proportion of the side pork and joints will not go into barrels, and will not reach an Eastern market."

Mr. Caldwell expressed the conviction, founded in information obtained during a "recent visit thro' the principal sections of the pork packing country," that the number of hogs cut west of the Alleghany Mountains, for the season of 1848—49, "could not have been less than 2,050,000."

If Mr. Caldwell's figures are correct, the slaughterings of the two seasons compare as follows:

In 1848-49	2,050,000 head.
In 1849-50	1,171,330 "
Decrease,	178,670 "

Mr. Caldwell states the packing in the city of Baltimore in 1848-49 at 150 000, and in 1849-50 at 100,000, making a further decrease of 50,000 head.

FOR YOUTH.

Drowne's Wooden Image.

BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORN.

[Concluded.]

"Drowne," said the true artist, grasping the carver fervently by the hand, "you are a man of genius."

As Copley departed, happening to glance backward from the threshold, he beheld Drowne bending over the half created shape, and stretching forth his arms as if he would have embraced and drawn it to his heart:—while, had such a miracle been possible, his countenance expressed passion enough to communicate warmth and sensibility to the lifeless oak.

"Strange enough," said the artist to himself. "Who would have looked for a modern Pygmalion in the person of a yankee mechanic?"

As yet, the image was but vague in its outward presentiment; so that, as in the cloud-shapes around the western sun, the observer rather felt, or was led to imagine, than really saw what was intended by it. Day by day, however, the work assumed greater precision, and settled its irregular and misty outline into distincter grace and beauty. The general design was now obvious to the common eye. It was a female figure, in what appeared to be a foreign dress; the gown being laced over the bosom and opening in front, so as to disclose a skirt or petticoat, the folds and inequalities of which were admirably represented in the oaken substance. She wore a hat of singular gracefulness, and abundantly laden with flowers, such as never grew in the rude soil of New England, but which, with all their fanciful luxuriance, had a natural truth that it seemed impossible for the most fertile imagination to have attained without copying from real prototypes. There were several little appendages to this dress, such as a fan, a pair of ear rings, a chain about the neck, a watch in the bosom, and a ring upon the finger, all of which would have been deemed beneath the dignity of sculpture. They were put on, however, with as much taste as a lovely woman might have shown in her attire, and could therefore have shocked none but a judgment spoiled by artistic rules.

The face was still imperfect; but, gradually by a magic touch, intelligence and sensibility brightened through the features, with all the effect of light gleaming forth from within the solid oak. The face became alive. It was a beautiful, though not precisely regular, and somewhat haughty aspect, but with a certain piquancy about the eyes and mouth which, of all expressions, would have seemed the most impossible to throw over a wooden countenance. And now, so far as carving went, this wonderful production was complete.

"Drowne," said Copely, who had hardly missed a single day in his visits to the carver's workshop, "if of this work were in marble, it would make you famous at once; nay I would almost affirm that it would make an era in the art. It is as ideal as an antique statue, yet as real as any lovely woman whom one meets a fireside or in the street. But I trust you do not mean to desecrate this exquisite creature with paint, like those staring kings and admirals yonder?"

"Not paint her?" exclaimed Captain Hunnewell, who stood by; "not paint the fiure head of the Cynosure!—And what sort of a figure should I cut in a foreign port, with such an unpainted oaken stick as this over my prow? She must, and she shall be painted to the life, from the topmost flower in her hat downto the silver spangles on her slippers."

"Mr. Copely," said Drowne, quietly, "I know nothing of marble statuary, and nothing of the sculptor's rules of art. But of this wooden image—this work of my hands—this creature of my heart"—and here his voice faltered and choked, in a very singular manner—"Of this—of her—I may say that I know something.—A well spring of inward wisdom gushed within me, as I wrought upon the oak with my whole strength, and soul, and faith. Let others do what they may with marble, and adopt what rules they choose. If I can produce my desired effect by painted wood, those rules are not for me, and I have a right to disregard them."

"The very spirit of genius!" muttered Copely to himself. "How otherwise should this carver feel himself entitled to transcend all rules, and make me ashamed of quoting them."

The carver, still in the same secrecy that marked all his operations upon this mysterious image, proceeded to paint the habiliments in their proper colors, and the countenance with nature's red and white. When all was finished, he threw open his workshop, and admitted the townspeople to behold what he had done. Most persons, at their first entrance, felt impelled to remove their hats, and pay such reverence as was due to the richly dressed and beautiful young lady, who seemed to stand in a corner of the room, with oaken chips and shavings scattered at her feet. Then came a sensation of fear, as if not being actually human, yet so like humanity, she must be something preternatural. There was, in truth, an indefinable air and expression that might reasonably induce the query—who and from what sphere this daughter of the oak should be. The strange rich flowers of Eden on her head; the complexion so much deeper and more brilliant than those of our native beauties; the foreign, as it seemed, and fantastic garb, yet not too fantastic to be worn decorously in the street; the delicately wrought embroidery of the skirt; the curious ring upon her finger; the fan, so exquisitely sculptured in open work, and painted to resemble pearl and eboy;—where could Drowne in his sober walks of life, have beheld the vision here so matchlessly embodied! And then her face! In the dark eyes, and around the voluptuous mouth, there played a look made up of pride, coquetry, and a gleam of mirthfulness, which impressed Copley with the idea that the image was secretly enjoying the perplexing admiration of himself and other beholders.

"And will you," said he to the carver, "permit this master piece to become the figure head of a vessel?—Give the honest captain yonder figure of a Britannia,—it will answer his purpose far better,—and send this fairy queen to England, where, for aught I know, it may bring you a thousand pounds."

"I have not wrought it for money," said Drowne.

"What sort of a fellow is this?" thought Copley.—"A Yankee, and throw away the chance of making his fortune! He has gone mad; and thence has come this gleam of genius."

There was still further proof of Drowne's lunacy, if credit were due to the rumor that he had been seen kneeling at the feet of the oaken lady, and gazing with a lover's passionate ardor into the face that his own hands had created. The bigots of the day hinted that it would be no matter of surprise if an evil spirit were allowed to enter this beautiful form, and seduce the carver to destruction.

The fame of the image spread far and wide. The inhabitants visited it so universally, that, after a few days of exhibition, there was hardly an old man or a child who had not become minutely familiar with its aspect.

One fine morning just before the departure of the Cynosure on her second voyage to Fayal, the commander of that gallant vessel was seen to issue from his residence in Hanover street. He was stylishly dressed in a blue broadcloth coat, with gold lace at the seams and button holes, an embroidered scarlet waistcoat, a triangular hat, with a loop and broad binding of gold, and wore a silver hilted hanger at his side. But the good captain might have been arrayed in the robes of a prince, or the rags of a beggar, without in either case attracting notice, while obscured by such a companion as now leaned on his arm. The people in the street

started, rubbed their eyes, and either leaped aside from their path, or stood as if transfixed to wood or marble in astonishment.

"Do you see it?—do you see it?" cried one, with tremulous eagerness. "It is the very same!"

"The same?" another, who had arrived in town only the night before. "Who do you mean? I see only a sea captain in shore going clothes, and a young lady in a foreign habit, with a bunch of beautiful flowers in her hat. On my word she is as fair and bright a damsel as my eyes have looked on this many a day."

"Yes; the same!—the very same!" repeated the other. "Drowne's wooden image has come to life!"

Here was a miracle indeed! Yet, illuminated by the sunshine, or darkened by the alternate shade of the houses, and with its garments fluttering lightly in the morning breeze, there passed the image along the street. It was exactly and minutely the shape, the garb, and the face, which the towns people had so recently thronged to see and admire. Not a rich flower upon her head, not a single leaf, but had its prototype in Drowne's wooden workmanship, although now their fragile grace had become flexible, and was shaken by every footstep that the wearer made. The broad gold chain upon the neck was identical with the one represented on the imag , and glistened with the motion imparted by the rise and fall of the bosom which it decorated. A real diamond sparkled on her finger. In her right hand she bore a pearl and ebony fan, which she flourished with a fantastic and bewitching coquetry, that was likewise expressed in all her movements, as well as in the style of her beauty and the attire that so well harmonized with it. The face with its brilliant depth of complexion, had the same piquancy of mirthful mischief that was fixed upon the countenance of the image, but which was here varied and continually shifting, yet always essentially the same, like the sunny gleam upon a bubbling fountain. On the whole, there was something so airy and yet so real in the figure, and withal did it so perfectly represent Drowne's image, that people knew not whether to suppose the magic wood etherealized into a spiritt, or warmed and softened into an actual woman.

* * * * *

The image, or the apparition, whichever it might be, still escorted by the bold captain, proceeded from Hanover street through some of the cross lanes that make this portion of the town so intricate, to Ann street, thence into Dock square, and so downward to Drowne's shop, which stood just at the water's edge. The crowd still followed, gathering volumes as it rolled along. Never had a modern miracle occurred in broad day-light, nor in the presence of such a multitude of witnessees. The airy image as if conscious that she was the object of the murmurs and disturbances that swelled behind her, appeared slightly vexed and flustered, yet still in a manner consistent with the light vivacity and sportive mischief that were written in her countenance. She was observed to flutter her fan with such vehement rapidity, that the elaborate delicacy of its workmanship gave way, and it remained broken in her hand.

Arriving at Drowne's door, while the captain threw it open, the marvellous aparition paused an instant on the treshold assuming the very attitude of the image, and casting over the crowd that glance of sunny coquetry which all remembered on the face of the oaken lady, She and hercavalier then disappeared.

"Ah!" murmured the crowd, drawing a deep breath, as with one vast pair of lungs.

"The world looks darker, now that she has vanished," said some of the young men.

But the aged, whose recollections dated as far back as witch times, shook their heads, and hinted that our forefathers would have thought it a pious deed to burn the daughter of the oak with fire.

"If she be other than a bubble of the elements," exclaimed Copley, "I must look upon her face again."

He accordingly entered the shop, and there in her usual corner, stood the image gazing at him, as it might seem, with the very same expression of mirthful mischief that had been the farewell look of the apparition when, but a moment before, she turned her face towards the crowd. The carver stood by his creation, mending the beautiful fan, which by some accident was broken in her hand. But there was no longer any motion, in the life like image, nor any real woman in the workshop, nor even the witchcraft of a sunny shadow, that might have deluded people's eyes as it flitted along the street. Captain Hunnewell, too, had vanished. His hoarse, sea-breezy tones, however, were audible on the other side of a door that opened upon the water.

"Sit down in the stern sheets, my lady," said the gallant captain. "Come, bear a hand, you lubbers, and set us on board in the turning of a minute glass,"

And then was heard the stroke of oars.

"Drowne," said Copley, with a smile of intelligence, "you have been a truly fortunate man. What painter or statuary ever had such a subject. No wonder that she inspired a genius into you, and first created the artist who afterwards created her image."

Drowne looked at him with a visage that bore the traces of tears, but from which the light of imagination and sensibility, so recently illuminated it, had departed. He was again the mechanical carver that he had been known to be all his lifetime.

"I hardly understand what you mean, Mr. Copeley," said he, putting his hand to his brow. "This image! Can it have been my work? Well,—I have wrought it in a kind of dream; and now that I am broad awake, I must set about finishing yonder figure of Admiral Vernon."

And forthwith he employed himself on the stolid countenance of one of his wooden progeny, and completed it in his mechanical style, from which he was never known afterwards to deviate. He followed his business industriously for many years, acquired a competence, and, in the latter part of his life, attained to a dignified station in the church, being remembered in records and traditions, as Deacon Drowne, the carver. One of his productions, an Indian chief, gilded all over, stood during the better part of a century on the cupola of the Province House, bedazzling the eyes of those who looked upward, like an angel of the sun. Another work of the good deacon's hand,—a reduced likeness of friend Captain Hunnewell, holding a telescope and quadrant,—may be seen, to this day, at the corner of Broad and State streets, serving in the useful capacity of sign to the shop of a nautical instrument maker.—We know not how to account for the inferiority of this quaint old figure, as compared with the recorded excellence of the Oaken Lady, unless on the supposition, that in every human spirit there is imagination, sensibility, creative power, genius, which, according to circumstances, may either be developed in this world, or shrouded in a mask of dulness until another state of being. To our friend Drowne, there came a brief season of excitement kindled by love. It rendered him a genius for that one occasion, but, quenched in disappointment, left him again the mechanical carver in wood, without the power even of appreciating the work that his own hands had wrought. Yet who can doubt, that the very highest state to which a human spirit can attain, in its loftiest aspirations, is its truest and loftiest state, and that Drowne was more consistent with himself when he wrought that admirable figure of the mysterious lady, than when he perpetrated a whole progeny of blockheads?

There was a rumor in Boston, about this period, that a young Portuguese lady of rank, on some occasion of politcal or domestic disquietude, had fled from her home in Fayal, and put herself under the protection of Cap-

Commercial.

St. Louis, March 28, 1850.

HEMP—Inferior to fair, dew rotted, $83a$93, good to prime $94a$95, choice $97 per ton.

FLOUR—We quote common to fair country brands at $5¼ a$5½; City mills $6¼ a$6¼ per bbl.

WHEAT—Mixed and spring wheat 80c. a 105c; fall 108c. a 123c. sacks returned.

CORN—48 a 50 cts. per bushel, sacks included.

OATS—45 cents, sacks included.

PORK—Prime $6 25 a $6 30; Mess $8 25 a $8 50.

BACON—Shoulders 2¾ a 3¼; sides 4 a 4¼; hams 5 a 5½; canvassed 6¼ a 8.

LARD—$5 a $5½ per 100 lbs.

BUTTER—According to quality, from 7 to 18 cents per lb. as usual.

CHEESE—7¼ a 8 cts. per lb.

GROCERIES—Rio Coffee, 12¼ a 13 cents, wholesale; Sugar, 4¼ a 5c. do; molasses, 25c. do.

DRIED FRUIT—Apples $1 75 a $1 80; Peaches $2 a $2 25 per bushel.

GREEN APPLES—$2 a $2 40 per bbl.

CASTOR BEANS—$2 40 per bushel.

POTATOES—45 a 50 cents, at retail.

COTTON YARNS—20 a 20½ c by wholesale.

HOPS—22 to 23 per lb.

BEESWAX—19 a 21c.

FLAXSEED—$1 55 per bushel.

CLOVERSEED—$3 50 a 3 75c per bush.

TIMOTHY SEED—$2 a 2 25c per bushel.

HEMPSED—65a70c per bush.

TALLOW—6 to 7½c per pound.

HIDES—9c per lb.

CASTOR OIL—$1 90a$1 95 per gallon.

HAY—55a 80c per 100 lbs.

STOCK MARKET.—There is an improved demand for Beef Cattle, and No. 1 for shipment now command $4 50a$4 75, and in some instances, $4 87½a $5 has been paid. Other descriptions we quote at $3 50a$4 25, as in condition. Sheep are also in good demand, and are selling at from $1 75 to $2 50 per head. No change in Hogs. Sales from wagons to butchers are making at $2 75a$3 per 100 lbs.

Oregon Wheat.

We had the pleasure of examining, at the last meeting of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, some samples of wheat raised in Oregon, and transmitted to the Society through the kindness of Major Lee. Of these samples, we noticed particularly a white kind, which certainly surpassed any grain we have ever seen. Each kernel was remarkably large and plump, and the bran very thin indeed. There were also two kinds of Red wheat from the neighborhood of the Oregon City Mills, and also the Mediterranean and Club Foot varieties, from the vicinity of Puget's Sound. All of these were superior qualities, but whether they are of a different variety from those grown among us, or whether their excellence was caused by the superiority of the climate or soil of Oregon, we cannot tell. Mr. Thurston, delegate to Congress from that Territory, states that the wheat crop there is not affected by rust or blight, and that it rarely winter kills. Other writers from Oregon corroborate this opinion.

This wheat was distributed among the members of the Society, who will test its qualities and adaptation to this section, and we shall await the result with considerable interest.

Horse Distemper.—It is well known among those who keep horses, that that noble animal is subject, during the season of Winter and Spring, to the above named disease. When a horse has contracted this distemper, he appears stupid, has a cough, discharges at the nose, and in advanced stages of the disease, swellings under the throat and on various other parts of the body. For the relief of animals thus afflicted, I feel desirous to give my mode of treatment, it is this: On the first appearance of the disease, commence feeding the horse with ginger, a table spoonfull, three times a day, mixed with grain, keeping the bowels loose at the same time with some gentle purgative. One pound of ginger will, in odrinary cases, be sufficienr to cure a horse. He should be worked moderately every day, and covered with warm blankets at night, to keep him from taking cold. It is highly necessary that he should be exercised, and when thus treated, I have not known it to fail of a cure in my practice, which has been limited.—*Boston Cultivator.*

A *locomotive* is the only good *motive* that can be given for *riding* a man on a rail.

A man who had become rich by his own exertions was asked by a friend the secret of his success. "I have accumulated," replied he, "about one half my property by attending strictly to my own business, and the other half by letting other people's alone."

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